

**HAPPY TOURS**

*European  
Guaranteed  
Tours 2018*





# HAPPY TOURS

## Dear Happy Traveller!

Get ready for the unforgettable hassle-free experience of Europe. Either on your own, with your family or with your friends, the list of the tours we offer will surely suit your taste.

HAPPY TOURS with guaranteed departures take place throughout the year and include various European countries and we are proud in offering the most competitive prices in the market. Plus, we most certainly have the best of Europe covered! From the classics like Paris, London, Rome, Amsterdam, Venice, Munich etc. to the more adventurous ones like Sailing in Croatia. The

choice is all yours and the only thing you need to do is book and pack your suitcases.

The tours range in length from 7 to 15 days. And one more time, if you have missed it before: all our tours are **GUARANTEED** to depart, so you do not need to worry about being cancelled at the last minute. Our best sellers have over 20 guaranteed departures a year, which gives you the widest possible time-frame to choose from. What else are you waiting for?

**Join us on an unforgettable journey through Europe NOW!**



# HAPPY TOURS

## Company profile

### One of the most important and fastest growing European tour operators

Established in 2000 in Slovenia, Happy Tours (official name Družina Krumpak d.o.o.) started as a family business with a long affiliation with the tourism industry, and gradually evolved into one of the most important and fastest growing incoming tour operators in Europe.

### 50 international staff members from 10 countries, over 1000 groups a year

We employ 50 international staff members, who handle over 1000 groups a year. Our core markets are Asia, North America and Latin America, but we have also been expanding to many other markets.

### A member of ETOA and affiliated member of JATA

Every year, we are present at over 30 international exhibitions or workshops throughout the world. We are a member of ETOA and affiliated member of JATA.

### The market leader for group travel in South-East Europe

We excel as the market leader when it comes to group travel in South-East Europe, dynamically spreading towards covering all of Central and East Europe. Furthermore, by opening an office in London in July this year, we want to strengthen our position

## Our Network

### HAPPY TOURS Headquarters – Družina Krumpak d.o.o.

Breznikova ulica 15, 1230 Domžale, Slovenia,  
+386-590-78-200 — [info@happytours.eu](mailto:info@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS London office – Happy Tours Ltd.

Athelney House, 161-165 Greenwich High Road, SE10 8JA London  
+44 20 3813 4997 — [london@happytours.eu](mailto:london@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS Adria – North Croatia Operational Office

Labinska 2c, 52000 Pula, Croatia  
+385-98-367-566 — [nikola@happytours.eu](mailto:nikola@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS Dubrovnik – South Croatia and Montenegro Operational Office

Sv. Mihajla 31, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia  
+385-98-881-659 — [dubrovnik-office@happytours.eu](mailto:dubrovnik-office@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS Greece – Greece Operational Office

86 Solonos str., 10680 Athens, Greece  
+30-697-440-5754 — [tassos@happytours.eu](mailto:tassos@happytours.eu)

in the West European market and become an even better partner for this part of Europe.

### PRIVILEGIUM – our luxury and MICE brand

We have a MICE department operating under a special brand – PRIVILEGIUM – and we are also developing more and more FIT products. We have a sister company, Balkans d.o.o., which owns the coaches and mini-vans we operate.

### Why choose HAPPY TOURS?

We excel at fast response, competitive pricing and 24/7 customer support (with decision making capacity), a wide network of experienced tour guides and transport providers, multilingualism and multicultural expertise – our staff members come from 10 countries.

### A positive HAPPY travel experience

At Happy Tours, we are aware that every group has specific requirements based on their cultural background, and that even two groups from the same country are not completely identical. We monitor travel from arrival at the airport until departure from Europe and make sure that everything runs smoothly. We aim to develop a long-term and lasting relationship with our clients and provide a positive travel experience – that is what Happy Tours is all about.



### HAPPY TOURS Shanghai – Sales office for Mainland China

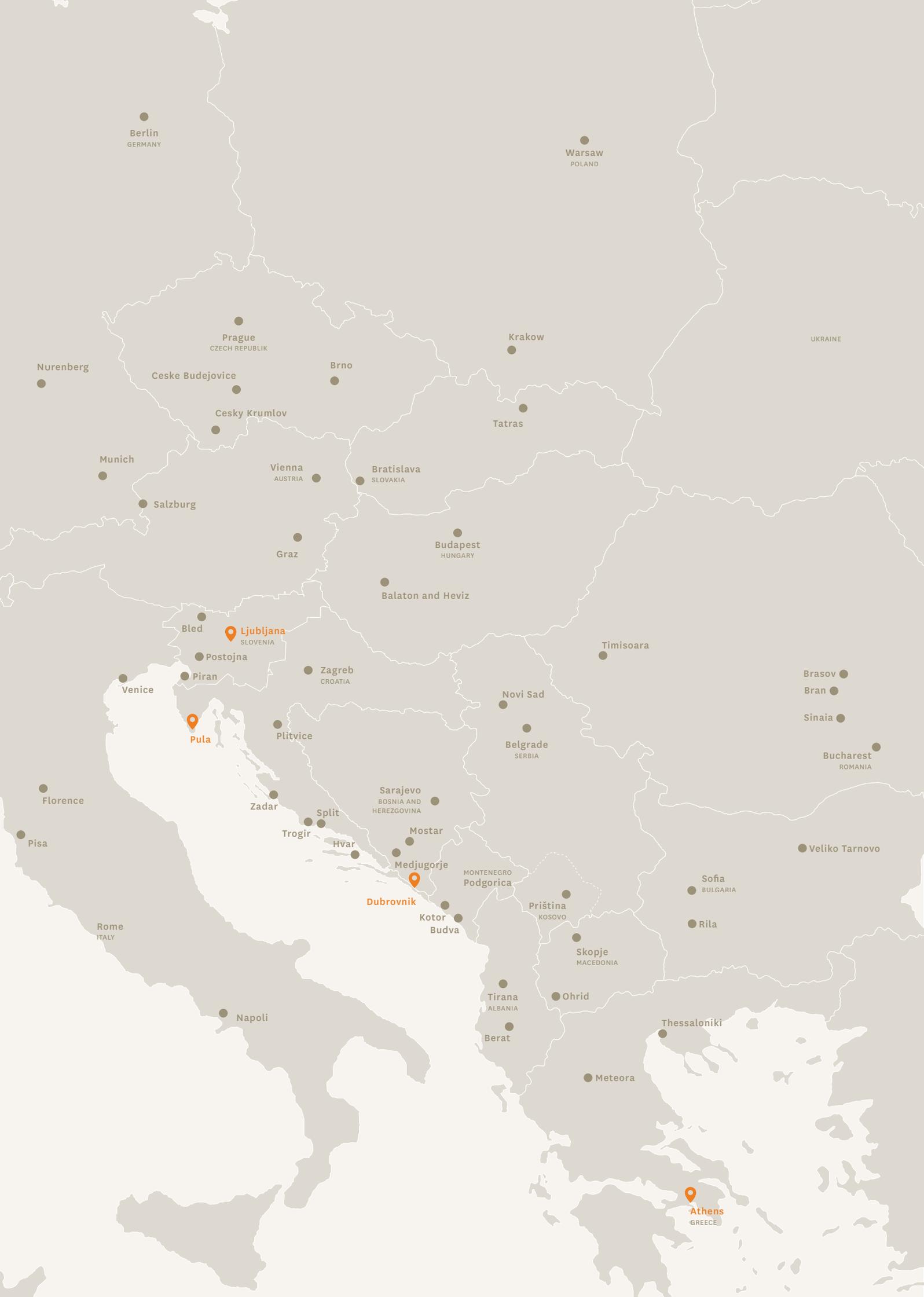
Shanghai, China  
+86-133-01-88-1868  
[shanghai@happytours.eu](mailto:shanghai@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS Bangkok – Sales office for Thailand, Taiwan, Japan & the Philippines

971-973, 10th Floor-Unit 109, President Tower,  
Ploenchit Rd., Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok, Thailand  
+66 2 656 1541 ext 109 — [klemen.zavodnik@happytours.eu](mailto:klemen.zavodnik@happytours.eu)

### HAPPY TOURS Kota Kinabalu – Sales office for Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore & Vietnam

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
+60-10 933 9774 — [travis.wong@happytours.eu](mailto:travis.wong@happytours.eu)



Berlin  
GERMANY

Warsaw  
POLAND

Prague  
CZECH REPUBLIC

Krakow

UKRAINE

Nuremberg

Ceske Budejovice

Brno

Cesky Krumlov

Tatras

Munich

Vienna  
AUSTRIA

Bratislava  
SLOVAKIA

Salzburg

Graz

Budapest  
HUNGARY

Balaton and Heviz

Bled  
**Ljubljana**  
SLOVENIA

Timisoara

Venice

**Pula**

Zagreb  
CROATIA

Novi Sad

Brasov

Bran

Sinaia

Bucharest  
ROMANIA

Florence

Plitvice

Belgrade  
SERBIA

Veliko Tarnovo

Pisa

Zadar

Split

Sarajevo  
BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA

Mostar

Trogir

Hvar

Medjugorje

MONTENEGRO  
Podgorica

Sofia  
BULGARIA

**Dubrovnik**

Kotor

Budva

Priština  
KOSOVO

Rila

Rome  
ITALY

Skopje  
MACEDONIA

Napoli

Tirana  
ALBANIA

Ohrid

Thessaloniki

Berat

Meteora

**Athens**  
GREECE

# 10 DAYS - EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Explore magnificent Paris on Day 2 & 3 of your Europe Taster tour!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street. Private airport transfer. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 2: Visit Paris

Leaving London behind us, we make our way to Paris, crossing the English Channel and arriving in the ‘City of Lights’ in the afternoon. We’ll take you on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready - you’ll be seeing some of the city’s most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour we’ll enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the Latin Quarter, an eclectic, bohemian and historic neighbourhood. We’ll then travel back to the hotel on Paris’ world famous metro system, ready to explore the city further on our free day tomorrow!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 3: A free day in Paris

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. Take a look at our optional excursions – enjoy a cruise up the River Seine, and head up the tower of Montparnasse for exquisite views of the city, the perfect way to see Paris at its best. Visit L’Opéra Garnier, the Tuileries Gardens, Place de la Concorde, Hotel de Ville, the River Seine, l’île de la Cité or the Louvre Museum. Get a glimpse of that most famous avenue, the Champs Elysees, overlooked by the famous Arc de Triomphe. Feel like shopping? Why not head to the boutiques of La Marais? Or visit the graves of Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison at Pere Lachaise Cemetery? Those with a taste for the macabre can even descend to the infamous catacombs! Alternatively, stay above ground and explore the museums, people-watch from a roadside café, or simply stroll the city, following in the footsteps of great painters, musicians and writers.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 4: Visit Switzerland

Au revoir Paris! Today we sample a taste of small town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune you can visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune, or try the famous wine. After lunch we take a long scenic drive across the border into Switzerland and head towards the Swiss Alps for our stay in a typical mountain village in the heart of the Jungfrau region. This is one of the most-visited regions of the Alps and also a World Heritage site, containing Europe’s largest glacier. Welcome to the Swiss Alps, your home for the next two days!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.



### Day 5: A free day in the Swiss Alps

The splendour of the Alps is yours today – don’t miss the chance to join our optional excursion up to Jungfrauoch, the highest train station in Europe! The trip to the top is a real highlight; you might find yourself pressed up against the windows as the picture-perfect Swiss countryside rolls beneath you. Look out for quaint villages nestled in the valleys beneath snow-capped peaks and tumbling mountain waterfalls. Once we’ve reached the top, enjoy the year-round snow and breathtaking views of the surrounding glaciers and craggy mountaintops. Once you’ve had a chance to explore and capture as many photos as possible, it’s back down to lower altitudes for the rest of the afternoon. Take the chance to head into nearby Interlaken to see the lakes of the region, shop for chocolates and cuckoo clocks, or have a fondue!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### Day 6: Visit the Rhine Valley

Au revoir Paris! Today we sample a taste of small town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune you can visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune, or try the famous wine. After lunch we take a long scenic drive across the border into Switzerland and head towards the Swiss Alps for our stay in a typical mountain village in the heart of the Jungfrau region. This is one of the most-visited regions of the Alps and also a World Heritage site, containing Europe’s largest glacier. Welcome to the Swiss Alps, your home for the next two days!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 7: Visit Amsterdam

The Netherlands is our next stop, and we arrive first at the windmill. Following that enjoy a traditional cheese-making demonstration, and learn about how that most quirky and quaint of footwear choices – the clog – is made, before travelling onward to Amsterdam. We’ll check in to our

hotel before joining a Amsterdam canal dinner cruise! Get on board and get those cameras ready; this is the best way to experience the city of Amsterdam, with its 17th century architecture, fascinating museums and cafes. Watch the city drift past as you sail by, and listen out for tips and interesting insights into the city from your tour leader. Later on, you have the option to join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District! The evening is yours



– explore the canals and Dam Square, and enjoy your time in this fascinating city.  
Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **Day 8: Visit Bruges and return to London**

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Amsterdam and make our way back to London via the Belgian city of Bruges. Famous for its beer, waffles, chocolate and moules et frites, this is definitely a good place to be if you've brought your appetite. An extremely popular medieval city with no shortage of cobblestone streets, historic old churches and lofty towers, this is a great city to explore and a good spot to pick up any last-minute souvenirs. Once you've had a look around, it's back to the coach for the final leg of our journey back to London.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **Day 9: Free day in London**

Today is all yours. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in London. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around London.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 10: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of London's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.  
Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 9 Nights accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 9 Breakfasts, 4 dinners
- 8 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day two till day eight who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **LONDON**

Ibis Greenwich  
Travelodge  
Royal National  
Ibis Excel

##### **PARIS**

Ibis la Defence  
B&B Porte de Lilas  
Ibis Budget La Villette  
IBIS Paris La Villette Cite des Sciences

##### **JUNGFRAU, SWITZERLAND**

Hotel Schönbühl  
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken  
Alpenrose Hotel  
Hotel Baren, Ringgenberg

Hotel Oberland  
Ibis Budget Lucerne

##### **RHINE VALLEY**

Rheinlust Hotel Boppard  
Hotel Weiland  
Hotel Gorres  
Ibis Bonn  
InterCity Bonn

##### **AMSTERDAM**

Hilton by Hampton  
Amsterdam Airport Schiphol  
Holiday Inn Express  
Amsterdam Schiphol  
Lake land Hotel  
Holiday Inn Express Arena  
Tower

# 13 DAYS - HIGHLIGHTS OF EUROPE

Visit Venice on Days 6 & 7 of our Europe Highlights tour!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street.

Private airport transfer. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 2: Visit Paris

Leaving London behind us, we make our way to Paris, crossing the English Channel and arriving in the ‘City of Lights’ in the afternoon. We’ll take you on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready - you’ll be seeing some of the city’s most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour we’ll enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the Latin Quarter, an eclectic, bohemian and historic neighbourhood. We’ll then travel back to the hotel on Paris’ world famous metro system, ready to explore the city further on our free day tomorrow!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Alternative start point: Paris.

### Day 3: A free day in Paris

The wonderful thing about Paris is that there is so much to experience, regardless of the time of day, or season. The Seine River is the backbone of the capital, and flows through the heart of the city. The banks are peppered with book sellers and market stalls if you wish to walk. But, why not choose a cruise, and sail your way past the grandeur of the gothic Notre Dame cathedral, to the epic Eiffel Tower? The commentary from the river boats will give you invaluable knowledge and information of the city. Famous architecture is scattered through the city, and ‘strolling’ is the best mode of transport for taking in every ounce of history. Paris Disneyland is perfect for the ‘young at heart’, and is only a short distance away. Your tour leader is brimming with ideas and local knowledge, so that you can get the best out of your time here. Lastly, don’t miss the opportunity to sample such French delicacies as frogs legs and snails!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### Day 4: Visit Switzerland

Au revoir Paris! Today we sample a taste of small town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune you can visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune, or try the famous wine. After lunch we take a long scenic drive across the border into Switzerland and head towards the Swiss Alps for our stay in a typical mountain village in the heart of



the Jungfrau region. This is one of the most-visited regions of the Alps and also a World Heritage site, containing Europe’s largest glacier. Welcome to the Swiss Alps, your home for the next two days!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 5: A free day in the Swiss Alps

The day is yours to enjoy the majesty of the Swiss Alps. Be sure to book a spot on the optional excursion to Jungfrau-joch, the highest train station in Europe, where you’ll also find a visitor’s centre, lookout point and weather station. The views are simply breath-taking all the way up – don’t be surprised to find yourself pressed up against the train window! Once you’re at the top, take a look at the utterly enormous glacier and enjoy the yearround snowy conditions. This is one trip that you won’t forget anytime soon; guaranteed to put your head in the clouds in every way possible!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 6: Visit Pisa and Tuscany

We’re off to Italy! Enjoy more breath-taking mountain views as we drive through Switzerland and on to see the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa! After some free time here (be sure to get the perfect photo!) we travel on to our accommodation in Tuscany, arriving in the late afternoon. Famous for its stunning countryside, fine food and wine, Italy’s most beautiful region is guaranteed to delight you. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 7: Visit Florence and Venice

This morning we leave our accommodation in Tuscany and make for the famous city of Florence for a guided walking tour. Learn about the legacy of the Medicis and see the Duomo and Piazza della Signoria, featuring Michelangelo’s ‘David’. This is the cradle of Renaissance culture – soak it all in while you can! Then it’s ‘Buon giorno Venice!’ Venice is known as one of the world’s most romantic cities. Spread

across 118 islands, you'll spend the afternoon discovering why this is such a 'must-see' destination, with more artworks per square kilometre than anywhere else on earth! See the famous Rialto Bridge, St Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs and the Doge's Palace. Afterwards, sip an espresso, enjoy a cruise along the canals on a gondola or relax and watch the world go by in one of the many piazzas. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation



#### **Day 8: Visit Munich**

We're off to Italy! Enjoy more breath-taking mountain views as we drive through Switzerland and on to see the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa! After some free time here (be sure to get the perfect photo!) we travel on to our accommodation in Tuscany, arriving in the late afternoon. Famous for its stunning countryside, fine food and wine, Italy's most beautiful region is guaranteed to delight you. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 9: Visit the Rhine Valley**

This morning we board the coach once more as we make for Germany's famous Rhine Valley! Relax on board a Rhine riv-

erboat as we head to our hotel in the heart of the Rhine Valley. This is the most concentrated stretch of castles in all of Europe, and it also features vineyards, charming medieval towns and lofty cliffs. Learn the story of the castles, many of which are now in ruins since the river barons left long ago. Once the cruise is over we'll visit a local wine merchants for an included wine tasting - if the harvest has been good, you may even get to try eiswein (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing. Breakfast, dinner. Overnight hotel.

#### **Day 10: Visit Amsterdam**

After breakfast our journey continues as we drive into the Netherlands, stopping off first at a windmill, after this quick photo stop enjoy a traditional cheese-making demonstration, and learn about how that most quirky and quaint of footwear choices - the clog - is made, before travelling onward to Amsterdam. Here we'll check in to our hotel before joining a complimentary Amsterdam canal dinner cruise! Watch the city drift past as you sail along, and listen out for tips and interesting insights into the city from your tour leader. Reclaimed from the sea, these canals and massive harbour offer a truly unique way to see some of the city's highlights. Later on, why not join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District! The evening is yours - explore the canals and Dam Square, and enjoy your time in this fascinating city. Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 11: Visit Bruges and return to London**

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Amsterdam and make our way back to London via the Belgian city of Bruges. Famous for its beer, waffles, chocolate and moules et frites, this is definitely a good place to be if you've brought your appetite. An extremely popular medieval city with no shortage of cobblestone streets, historic old churches and lofty towers, this is a great city to explore and a good spot to pick up any last-minute souvenirs. Once you've had a look around, it's back to the coach for the final leg of our journey back to London. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **Day 12: Free day in London**

Today is all yours. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in London. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around London. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 13: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of London's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours. Breakfast. Private airport transfer.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 12 Nights accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 12 Breakfasts, 5 dinners
- 15 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours plus other exciting experiences).
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day 2 till day 11, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### LONDON

Ibis Greenwich  
Travelodge  
Royal National  
Ibis Excel

#### PARIS

Ibis la Defence  
B&B Porte de Lilas  
Ibis Budget La Villette  
IBIS Paris La Villette Cite des Sciences

#### JUNGFRAU, SWITZERLAND

Alpenrose Hotel  
Hotel Schönbühl  
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken  
Hotel Baren, Ringgenberg  
Hotel Oberland  
Ibis Budget Lucerne

#### TUSCANY

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

#### VENICE

Hotel Centrale  
Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia

#### BAVARIAN REGION

Hotel Dolomit München  
Ibis Muenchen City  
Ibis Budget Augsburg Gersthofen  
Ibis Augsburg Hauptbahnhof  
Leonardo Hotel Nürnberg  
Ramada Nuernberg Park hotel  
Leonardo Hotel Munich Arabellapark  
Tryp Munich North  
Azimut City Ost  
B&B Munich City West  
Winters Hotel  
Leonardo Hotel Munich City Olympiapark  
Avis Hotel Regensburg  
A&O Nurnberg  
A&O Munich Laim

#### RHINE VALLEY

Rheinlust Hotel Boppard  
Hotel Weiland  
Hotel Gorres  
Ibis Bonn  
InterCity Bonn

#### AMSTERDAM

Hilton by Hampton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol  
Holiday Inn Express Amsterdam Airport  
Lakelands Hotel  
Holiday Inn Express Arena Tower

# 14 DAY - GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE

The famous Arc de Triomphe, Paris.  
See it up close on your free day in Paris!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street.

Private airport transfer.

Overnight accommodation.

### Day 2: Visit Paris

Departing London, you will be escorted across the English Channel, and arriving in the ‘City of Lights’ in the afternoon. We’ll take you on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready - you’ll be seeing some of the city’s most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour we’ll enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the Latin Quarter, an eclectic, bohemian and historic neighbourhood. We’ll then travel back to the hotel on Paris’ world famous metro system, ready to explore the city further on our free day tomorrow! Dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Alternative start point: Paris.

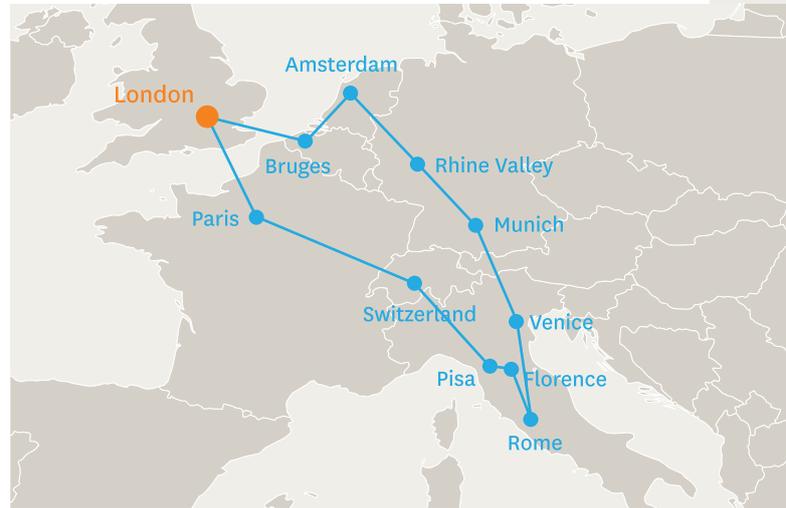
### Day 3: A free day in Paris.

The wonderful thing about Paris, is that there is so much to experience, regardless of the time of day, or season. The Seine River is the backbone of the capital, and flows through the heart of the city. The banks are peppered with book sellers and market stalls if you wish to walk. But, why not choose a cruise, and cruise your way past the grandeur of the gothic Notre Dame cathedral, to the epic Eiffel Tower? The commentary from the river boats will give you invaluable knowledge and information of the city. Famous architecture is scattered through the city, and ‘strolling’ is the best mode of transport for taking in every ounce of history. Paris Disneyland is perfect for the ‘young at heart’, and is only a short distance away. Your tour leader is brimming with ideas and local knowledge, so that you can get the best out of your time here. Don’t forget to find out where you can sample such French delicacies as frogs legs and snails - not your typical garden variety...

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 4: Visit Switzerland.

Au revoir Paris! Today we sample a taste of small town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune you can visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune, or try the famous wine. After lunch we take a long scenic drive across the border into Switzerland. Welcome to the Swiss Alps,



your home for the next two days! You are now completely surrounded by nature’s beauty. Literally, you can turn in any direction and you will see snow-capped peaks, clear-blue lakes and perfect hiking trails. Breathe in the fresh air and enjoy your time in this idyllic place.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

### Day 5: A free day in the Swiss Alps.

The Swiss Alps has some of the highest peaks in the world! Surrounded by these peaks and glaciers you have the opportunity to feel on top of the world... Take a train or gondola to the top for magnificent mountain vistas. You have picture-perfect beauty all around you and endless photo opportunities. For those wishing to spend their free

day exploring the local sights, you can feast on Swiss cheese fondue or do a spot of sightseeing. If you're looking for keepsakes, there are great local places for shopping Swiss Army knives and watches. Or wander through the villages and breathe in that crisp, fresh, Alpine air! What more could you want on your free day?!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 6: Visit Pisa and Tuscany**

It's time to swap snow for gelato, as you continue your European tour through northern Italy to Florence. Once we arrive, a local guide can't wait to show you around on a walking tour of the city. History oozes out of every pore of this artistic and cultural centre - the city is home to Michelangelo's 'David'. After some free time to further explore Florence we head to our accommodation for the evening, either in Florence or the spa town of Montecatini Terme. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 7: Visit Florence and Rome.**

Today, your Italian adventure continues! Make sure you prepare your camera for a photo opportunity of a lifetime.. when we stop at the Leaning Tower of Pisa! This world famous Bell tower is immaculately presented. A world heritage UNESCO site, The Leaning Tower is visited by tourists from every corner of the globe, and is one of the most popular cultural European landmarks. We then continue on to the capital, Rome! This afternoon is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of an optional excursion to visit the Vatican City - the smallest country in the world! Inside the walls, you can visit the Sistine Chapel and see for yourself the famous ceiling painted by Michelangelo, as well as numerous other famous art pieces dotted around the buildings. On the way to our hotel your tour leader will introduce you to more of this historic city on a driving tour, to help you plan which sights you want to tick off during your free day tomorrow.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 8: A free day in Rome, optional excursion to the Vatican.**

Rome wasn't built in a day, but luckily you have a free one, in which to explore the city to your hearts content. The city centre boasts ancient ruins, historical landmarks, religious buildings and a buzzing atmosphere like no other. The Colosseum is spectacular, offering fabulous views of the city, and an unbelievable feeling of drifting backwards in time, to when gladiators, chariots and lions dominated the arena. For those who wish to enter, your tour leader can organise a tour of the Colosseum and Roman Forum with a local guide. Later, you will also have the option of joining our 'Conquer the Capital' excursion, a fun-filled day of exploring Rome, seeing sights including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Pantheon, and enjoying a delicious lunch and gelato tasting.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 9: Visit Venice.**

After roaming Rome, you shall now visit Venice on the next leg of your 14 day Europe Tour! Take note of the scenery on the way - vineyards and orchards flash in front of a majestic mountain backdrop. The diversity of the Italian landscapes

will continue to impress. And then...Venice. A unique city, perched across 118 islands, and known for its canals, gondolas, Venetian masks, piazzas, art, traditional glass and lace making. Your tour leader will introduce you to the city with an orientation walk so you can use your free time in the early evening to explore. See the world famous St Marks Square, Grand Canal and Rialto Bridge. The evening is yours to enjoy authentic Italian delights, with hundreds of fantastic local restaurants and bars to choose from. After



an espresso, explore Venice the traditional way - from the canals. Take a gondola ride which gives you a completely different perspective and appreciation for the amazing structure of this supremely unique location.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 10: Visit Munich**

Arrivederci, Italy...until we see each other again. Heading north toward Germany, you will encounter some of the most beautiful countryside in central Europe. The famous Brenner Pass will appear before you, and simply take your breath

away, as we make our way to Austria for a comfort stop to get a taster of Innsbruck and its dramatic mountain backdrop. Arriving in Munich in the afternoon, there is plenty of time for an escorted walking tour of the city centre. With much of the city having to be restored after WW2, the modern and ancient history of Munich is fascinating, and the appreciation of the effort to rebuild the German city is gilded with respect. Munich plays host to one of the most famous beer festivals in the world - Oktoberfest! To give you



a taste, this evening you will dine in a traditional beer hall, and enjoy a local beer on us! Prost!  
Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation in Bavarian region.

#### **Day 11: Cruise the Rhine Valley**

Your German adventure continues, with you heading to one of the most picturesque sections of the famous Rhine River. Once we arrive in the Rhine Valley, relax on board a Rhine riverboat as we head to our hotel in the heart of this picturesque region. This is the most concentrated stretch of castles in all of Europe, and it also features vineyards,

charming medieval towns and lofty cliffs. Learn the story of the castles, many of which are now in ruins since the river barons left long ago. Once the cruise is over we'll visit a local wine merchants for an included wine tasting - if the harvest has been good, you may even get to try eiswein (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.



#### **Day 12: Visit Amsterdam**

This morning you will say your goodbyes to Germany, and continue your Europe tour into the Netherlands. With your tour leader giving you a run down on local traditions and culture, you will be given an opportunity to indulge three of the most iconic Dutch products - cheese, clogs and windmills! A very entertaining cheese and clog making display, will have you fascinated and wanting to taste and 'klomp' (klompen is the Dutch word for 'clogs'. Checking into your hotel you have a chance to freshen up, and then whisked to the centre of Amsterdam for a twilight canal cruise. Complete with pizza and ice cream, you will explore the city from below sea level, and gain an alternative perspective of this eclectic and bohemian city, whilst drifting past famous landmarks, and learning about Amsterdam's interesting development. Afterwards, why not join your tour leader on a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District, and then you are free to explore the city to your hearts content. The cafes, restaurants and bars will be buzzing with activity and atmosphere.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

#### **Day 13: Visit Bruges and return to London.**

After your Amsterdam adventure, you have one more stop before you set off for the UK. The Belgian city of Bruges, is a small but picturesque city, with breathtaking architecture

and a wonderful personality. Described as the ‘Venice of the North’, take some time to stretch your legs and indulge in a spot of sight-seeing. Gastronomy is its forte, You will find plenty of chocolatiers ready to educate you on the quality of their produce. After your visit, you will then be on your way back to London, crossing the English Channel on the way. This is the perfect time to exchange contact details with new friends and travel buddies as you prepare to disembark in the capital. Make sure you upload the highlights of your 14 day Europe tour onto our Facebook page, and we look forward to having you on tour with us again soon.

Breakfast

#### Day 14: Departure out of London

Free time in the morning until departure to the airport.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room
- 13 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- 16 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- Free Wi-fi in all hotels
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Services of your tour leader from day 2 till day 13, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### LONDON

Ibis Greenwich  
Travelodge  
Royal National  
Ibis Excel

##### PARIS

Ibis la Defence  
B&B Porte de Lilas  
Ibis Budget La Villette  
IBIS Paris La Villette Cite des Sciences

##### JUNGFRAU, SWITZERLAND

Alpenrose Hotel  
Hotel Schönbühl  
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken  
Hotel Baren, Ringgenberg  
Hotel Oberland  
Ibis Budget Lucerne

##### TUSCANY

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

##### ROME

Club House Roma  
Christophoro Colombo  
Hotel American Palace  
Park Hotel Ginevra

##### VENICE

Hotel Centrale  
Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia

##### BAVARIAN REGION

Hotel Dolomit München  
Ibis Muenchen City  
Ibis Budget Augsburg  
Gersthofen  
IBIS Augsburg Hauptbahnhof  
Leonardo Hotel Nürnberg  
Ramada Nuernberg Park hotel  
Leonardo Hotel Munich  
Arabellapark  
Tryp Munich North  
Azimut City Ost  
B&B Munich City West  
Winters Hotel  
Leonardo Hotel Munich City Olympiapark  
Avis Hotel Regensburg  
A&O Nurnberg  
A&O Munich Laim

##### THE RHINE VALLEY

Rheinlust Hotel Boppard  
Hotel Weiland  
Hotel Gorres  
Ibis Bonn  
InterCity Bonn

##### AMSTERDAM

Hampton by Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol  
Holiday Inn Express Amsterdam - Schiphol  
Holiday Inn Express Amsterdam - Arena Towers  
Lake Land Hotel



# 14 DAYS - BEST OF WEST AND EAST EUROPE

A city of history & cultural delights - Florence, Italy

## ITINERARY

### Alternative start in Amsterdam and finish in Paris

#### Day 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street. Private airport transfer. Overnight accommodation.

#### Day 2: Visit Amsterdam

Leaving London behind us, we make our way to Amsterdam, crossing the channel on the way and driving through rural France and Belgium. Arriving in Amsterdam in the late afternoon, we'll check in to our hotel before joining a complimentary Amsterdam canal cruise! Get on board and have those cameras at the ready – this is the best way to be introduced to Amsterdam, a city of beautiful 17th Century architecture, and a charm all its own. Keep an eye out for spots to revisit later on during your free time. Watch the city drift past as you sail by, and listen out for tips and interesting insights into the city from your tour leader. Later on, you will have the option to join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District! Dinner. Overnight accommodation. London

#### Day 3: Visit the Rhine Valley

This morning we'll take a look at a cheese-making demonstration, revealing how cheese has been made in the traditional way in these parts for many years. Following that, we'll learn about that most quirky of Dutch footwear choices – the clog – and see how these traditional shoes are carved. Stopping off at the Riekermolens windmill for a photo stop, you'll be able to appreciate the scenery that the Netherlands is famous for. If the season is right, look out for flowers in the fields! Continuing on to the Rhine Valley, we'll board a Rhine Valley river boat and sail from St Goar to Boppard. Admire the passing scenery - with the highest concentration of medieval castles in all of Europe, this is a memorable trip, especially with all the vineyards, cliff faces and medieval German towns! Later we will visit a local wine merchants for an included wine tasting - if the harvest has been good, you may even get to try eiswein (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

#### Day 4: Visit Nuremburg and Prague.

Today we're off to Prague via Nuremburg, stopping in the Bavarian city for a comfort stop. Having served as a resi-



dence for German kings over many centuries, Nuremburg was an architectural marvel, and famous for its artists too. Heavily bombed during WW2, the city was painstakingly rebuilt, and today has been returned to some of its former glory – many buildings being rebuilt in the original stone. Prague is a beautiful city, boasting elaborate baroque, gothic, art nouveau and cubist architecture, and rewarding those who explore it with quirky bars, cobbled lanes and courtyards. Known for its brilliant beer and abundance of art, any exploration of Prague will be a rewarding one. After getting your bearings on a walking tour of the city experience authentic Czech cuisine at our local restaurant for dinner on your first night in Prague. Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 5: A free day in Prague**

Your time is your own today to explore Prague the way you want to. Described by some as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Central Europe, you'll find that Prague is just as engaging as Rome, London or Amsterdam, and is at least as beautiful as Paris. Let your guard down and explore today – you never know the wonders you might find! Start off with the Charles Bridge, which joins the old and the new town, and marvel at how Prague's dramatic history is reflected in the beauty of its churches, opera houses, concert halls and of course Prague castle.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 6: Visit Bratislava and Budapest.**

Moving on to the Slovakian capital, Bratislava! Located in a country dominated by mountains, vineyards, ski runs and wilderness, Bratislava is a charming city. Here you'll find medieval castles overlooking the old town, along with more recent Socialist-era architecture. Later in the day we make for beautiful Budapest. With a huge number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, we start things off with a driving tour to help you get acquainted with the city. With a huge variety of architectural styles adorning the city, Budapest promises all manner of untold treasures. Featuring hundreds of thermal and mineral springs, bathing in Budapest has been in vogue since Roman times. Hungarian food, too, is experiencing something of a revival after being somewhat repressed in the Soviet era. Explore and be amazed at the bounty of Budapest!

Breakfast, Lunch. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 7: Visit Vienna**

Heading next to Vienna, we'll have lunch in one of the city's traditional beer halls before taking a walking tour of the city led by one of our expert local guides. As a centre for art and culture in Europe for centuries, Vienna was host to some of the world's leading musical minds at one time or another – including luminaries like Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. But along with its classical heritage, magnificent concert halls, palaces and museums, Vienna is also a modern city, with a vibrant café, restaurant and nightclub culture. Explore the city this afternoon and take it all in!

Breakfast, lunch. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 8: Visit Graz and Ljubljana**

After leaving Vienna, we'll take a comfort stop in Graz – Austria's second-largest city, but also one of its liveliest. Admire the verdant parkland and Renaissance architecture, and get a glimpse of the small, fast-flowing river which gushes through the centre. Our final stop of the day is the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, often thought of as a hidden gem of Europe. With its castles, stunning architecture and natural beauty, Ljubljana packs a punch more powerful than its small size would suggest. We'll take a walking tour of the city with a local guide to soak it all in.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 9: Visit Venice**

Venice is our next stop, a city immortalised in literature, film and art for centuries. Its timeless waterways and artistic masterpieces (more per square kilometre than anywhere else on earth) make it truly unique – this is a city that will capture your heart and imagination. Being Italian, there's

no shortage of incredible food and culture either! You'll start your stay in Venice with an orientation tour to get your bearings, after which you'll visit a Murano glass-blowing workshop and see a live demonstration of this traditional – and hugely impressive – art-form. The afternoon is yours to explore this unforgettable city on your own.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 10: Visit Florence and Tuscany**

Although we leave Venice today, ahead of us are the hills of Tuscany – marvel at the countryside as we head for Florence. On arrival we'll get a fabulous panoramic view of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo, then take a fascinating walking tour of the city with a local guide. Learn about the history of the city and see historical landmarks dating from Roman times to the glory days of the Renaissance. After exploring, we make our way to the Tuscan countryside, where we spend the night.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 11: Visit Pisa, travel onward to Switzerland**

Departing Tuscany, we make for one of the world's most famous buildings. This is also definitely a place where you'll want to have your camera charged – Pisa! Learn the story behind the leaning tower, and be sure to take some photos! It's time to cross over to the Alps. Is there a better way to enjoy the magic of Switzerland than staying in a typical Swiss Alpine town? Take in the beauty of the snow-capped mountains and the greenery around you.

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 12: A free day in the Swiss Alps.**

The splendour of the Alps is yours today – don't miss the chance to join our optional excursion up to Jungfrauoch, the highest train station in Europe! The trip to the top is a real highlight; you might find yourself pressed up against the windows as the picture-perfect Swiss countryside rolls beneath you. Look out for quaint villages nestled in the valleys beneath snow-capped peaks and tumbling mountain waterfalls. Once we've reached the top, enjoy the year-round snow and breathtaking views of the surrounding glaciers and craggy mountaintops. Once you've had a chance to explore and capture as many photos as possible, it's back down to lower altitudes for the rest of the afternoon. Take the chance to head into nearby Interlaken to see the lakes of the region, shop for chocolates and cuckoo clocks, or have a fondue!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**Day 13: Visit Paris**

It's an early start today as we make our way out of the mountains and make for the city of lights and love: Paris! Arriving in the afternoon, we'll take you on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready – you'll be seeing some of the city's most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour we'll enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the Latin Quarter, an eclectic, bohemian and historic neighbourhood. We'll then travel back to the hotel on Paris' world famous metro system, ready to explore the city further on our free day tomorrow!

Breakfast, dinner. Overnight accommodation.



#### Day 14: A free day in Paris.

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. Take an optional cruise up the River Seine, head up the tower of Montparnasse for exquisite views, visit L'Opéra Garnier, the Tuileries Gardens, Place de la Concorde, Hotel de Ville, the River Seine, l'Île de la Cité or the Louvre Museum. Get a glimpse of that most famous avenue, the Champs Elysees, overlooked by the famous Arc de Triomphe. Alternatively, why not head to the boutiques of La Marais? Or visit the graves of Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison at Père Lachaise Cemetery? Those with a taste for the macabre can even descend to the infamous catacombs! Alternatively, stay above ground and explore the museums, people-watch from a roadside café, or simply stroll the city, following in the footsteps of great painters, musicians and writers. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

#### Day 15: Departure out of Paris

It's our last day already! Today we leave the mainland and cross the Channel on our way back to London. Be sure to swap details with your fellow travellers – we hope you've loved every minute of your Europe Jewel adventure!

#### Day 16: Depart from London

After breakfast free time in the morning until departure to the airport.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 13 Nights accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 13 Breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- 17 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences – please see Experiences tab for more information).
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Services of your tour leader from day 1 till day 13, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### AMSTERDAM

Hilton by Hampton  
Amsterdam Airport Schiphol  
Holiday Inn Express  
Airport Schiphol  
Lake land Hotel  
Holiday Inn Express Arena  
Tower

##### RHINE VALLEY

Rheinlust Hotel Boppard  
Hotel Weiland  
Hotel Gorres  
Ibis Bonn  
InterCity Bonn

##### PRAGUE

Ibis Mala Strana  
Hotel Charles Central  
Hotel Adeba  
Hotel Duo  
Hotel Krystal

##### BUDAPEST

Hotel Ibis Budapest City

##### VIENNA

Ibis Wien Messe  
Ibis Budget Wien  
Renator Hotel  
Senator Hotel  
Ibis Budget Wien St Marx

##### LJUBLJANA

Hotel Park  
M Hotel  
City Hotel

##### VENICE

Hotel Centrale  
Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia

##### TUSCANY

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

##### SWITZERLAND

Alpenrose Hotel  
Hotel Schönbühl  
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken  
Hotel Baren, Ringgenberg  
Hotel Oberland  
Ibis Budget Lucerne

##### PARIS

Ibis la Defense  
B&B Porte de Lilas  
Ibis Budget La Villette  
IBIS Paris La Villette Cite des Sciences

# 10 DAYS - TOUR OF EUROPE

Discover Amsterdam, Paris, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Venice and more on our 10 Day Europe trip

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Amsterdam

Welcome to the start of your tour! Arriving in Amsterdam, you'll meet your tour at the hotel. Once you've settled in, we'll head in to the centre of Amsterdam to experience the wonders of this fascinating city with an Amsterdam canal dinner cruise. Get on board and have those cameras at the ready – this is the best way to be introduced to Amsterdam, a city of beautiful 17th Century architecture, and a charm all its own. Keep an eye out for spots to revisit later on during your free time. Watch the city drift past as you sail by, and listen out for tips and interesting insights into the city from your tour leader. Later on, join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District! The evening is yours – explore the canals some more, or head to Dam Square, one of the most important parts of the city. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Rhine Valley

This morning, we'll take a look at a cheese-making demonstration, revealing how cheese has been made in the traditional way in these parts for many years. Following that, we'll learn about that most quirky of Dutch footwear choices – the clog – and see how these traditional shoes are carved. Stopping off at a windmill for a photo stop, you'll be able to appreciate the iconic scenery of the Netherlands. If the season is right, look out for flowers in the fields! Continuing on to the Rhine Valley, we'll board a Rhine Valley river boat and cruise the Rhine River. With the highest concentration of medieval castles in all of Europe, this is a memorable trip, especially with all the vineyards, cliff faces and medieval German towns! Once the cruise is over we'll visit a local wine merchants for an included wine tasting - if the harvest has been good, you may even get to try eiswein (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Innsbruck

Today, we're off to Innsbruck, Austria, taking a comfort stop in Ulm on the way. This historic German city is famous not only as the birthplace of Albert Einstein, but also for having the tallest church steeple in the world! Innsbruck is one of the few places in the world that really can lay claim to having something for everyone. It's not everywhere that offers extreme sports (thanks to the close proximity of the soaring Nordkette Alps), fascinating historical heritage (courtesy of the legacy of the Habsburgs), and vibrant modern attractions too. This is where the modern urban environment meets the outdoors, with a space-age funicular taking up into the mountains in literally a matter of minutes. Once we arrive in the afternoon, we'll have dinner, after which your time is yours to explore this fascinating Austrian city. You can take the cable car to the peak of Nordkette for stunning Alpine views, visit the famous Goldenes Dachl (Golden



Roof) in the Altstadt (old town) or quench your thirst in a historic beer hall.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Venice

Leaving Innsbruck behind us, we journey onward to the enchanting city of Venice. Travelling through stunning Alpine scenery, we will take a photo stop so that you can record your memories of the incredible mountain vistas spreading out before you. The timeless waterways and artistic masterpieces (more per square kilometre than anywhere else on earth) of Venice make it truly unique – this is a city that will capture your heart and imagination. Being Italian, there's no shortage of incredible food and culture either! You'll start your stay in Venice with an orientation tour to get your bearings; see St Mark's Square, the famous Rialto

Bridge and the beautiful narrow alleyways lined with shops offering unique souvenirs. The afternoon is yours to explore this unforgettable city. If you wish to take part in the true Venice experience, your tour leader will organise a gondola ride through the enchanting waterways, under the quaint bridges and between the beautiful houses that Venezia offers in abundance.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation



#### **DAY 5: Lucerne region**

We're on our way back into Alpine territory once again today, but first we stop off in Verona for a comfort stop. The setting for the most famous love story of all time, Romeo & Juliet, one can seek out the balcony where Romeo reportedly wooed his lover. After a short stop, we continue on to Lucerne. Renowned as one of Switzerland's most beautiful cities, this is one place you'll definitely want to have your camera at the ready! All the ingredients for the quintessentially picturesque Swiss experience are here - a cobalt lake and well-preserved old-town complete with waterfront promenades, covered bridges and perfect plazas is surrounded by the natural skyscrapers of the Swiss Alps. It's really no wonder that Goethe, Queen Victoria and Wagner savoured the stunning views that Lucerne has to offer.

There's charm and grace around every corner, but it's not all about history - there's certainly enough of a pulse here to keep things current, with carnivals, concerts and exhibitions aplenty.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 6: Burgundy**

Before we travel onward to Burgundy, you'll have the morning to enjoy more of the Lucerne region - why not join our Mount Pilatus optional excursion? Whether you take the world's steepest cogwheel railway from Alpnachstad or the panoramic gondolas and aerial cableway from Kriens, you will travel up through lush meadows carpeted with Alpine flowers, past sparkling mountain streams and fascinating rock faces - the Mount Pilatus optional truly offers that unique Alpine experience! We then leave Switzerland behind and head west into France. If Paris is the place for romance, then Burgundy is the place for two other things the French - and France - are well-known for: great food and wine. You will be staying in the capital of Burgundy, Dijon. A place of tremendous wealth and power and one of the great European centres of art, learning and science, there is plenty to do in Dijon. Beyond the food and wine, this is also the place to soak up history, with excellent museums and fabulous Renaissance architecture helping to make this one of the most memorable parts of the entire tour!

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 7: Paris**

The city of lights is our next stop, as we take in the home of some of the world's most famous cultural landmarks, museums that feature some of the world's most important artworks, cafes, galleries, boutiques and more. Trying to see it all is futile, but wherever you explore will leave an impression you're likely to forget anytime soon. Whether you're strolling the boulevards, visiting stylish boutiques, admiring the artwork, exploring the famous neighbourhoods that have been home to so many of the world's great thinkers and artists or simply sitting at a street-side cafe and watching the world go by, Paris is unforgettable. To help you make the most of your time, your tour leader can organise queue jump tickets to the River Seine Cruise and a visit to the Montparnasse tower, offering incredible views of the Paris skyline, including the Eiffel Tower! For the uniquely Parisian experience, join your tour leader on a visit to an incredible Cabaret show!

Breakfast. Lunch. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 8: Paris - Amsterdam**

On our way back to the Dutch capital we stop in Brussels for a comfort stop and the chance to explore the Belgian capital. Sample typical Belgian fare (moules et frites, countless varieties of beer, and of course, that famous chocolate), or wander around. Perhaps grab some last-minute souvenirs for the folks back home? We will also take a photo stop at the incredible Atomium. Originally built for the 1958 World's Fair, this unique structure makes for a truly incredible selfie opportunity! After our comfort stop, we continue on to Amsterdam, where our tour officially ends. We hope you've enjoyed this whirlwind tour of Europe!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Free day in Amsterdam**

Today is all yours. You can visit museums or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in Amsterdam. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around Amsterdam. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 10: Amsterdam**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Amsterdam's sights or do some last minute shoppings. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 9 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 9 breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 13 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****Amsterdam**

Hampton by Hilton Schipol Airport  
Holiday Inn Express Schipol Airport  
Park Inn Plaza Amsterdam Airport  
Crowne Plaza Amsterdam Schiphol  
Lake land Hotel

**Rhine Valley**

Rheinlust  
Ibis Bonn  
Hotel Weiland  
InterCity Bonn

**Innsbruck**

AlpinPark Hotel Innsbruck

**Venice**

Elite Residence Hotel  
NH Laguna Palace  
Hotel Complex Ambasciatori & Delfino  
Hotel Venezia

**Lucerne**

Hotel Stanserhof

**Burgundy**

Ibis Dijon Clemenceau  
Campanile Dijon Centre Gare

**Paris**

Ibis la Defense  
B&B Porte Des Lilas  
B&B Paris Malakof  
Ibis Paris La Villette Cité des Sciences  
B&B Paris Italie Porte de Choisy  
B&B Hôtel Orly Chevilly



# 10 DAYS TOUR OF THE ALPS

The splendour of Liechtenstein's mountain scenery. Yours to enjoy on Day 3 of the tour!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Welcome to Munich.

Welcome to the tour! After arriving in Munich, make your way to our hotel, where your tour leader will assist you with check-in. If you've got time, explore Munich - a city that combines a sense of age-old tradition, folklore and a certain cosiness with sleek, modern aesthetics and high-powered industry. Tonight, join up with the rest of the group as we enjoy a traditional Bavarian beer hall dinner! Private airport transfer. Dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 2: Visit Neuschwanstein Castle & Innsbruck.

Let's hit the road! Our first stop today is Neuschwanstein Castle, a 19th Century hilltop castle built by Ludwig II of Bavaria, and the inspiration for the famous Disneyland castle. We then head to Innsbruck, Austria, where we'll enjoy some free time. Home to Austria's third-largest student population, there's no shortage of vibrant bars and beer gardens to enjoy.

Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

### Day 3: Visit Liechtenstein, Lucerne & Interlaken.

We hope you're ready for a day of incredible scenery! First up is the Alpine principality of Liechtenstein, the sixth-smallest country in the world, governed by a monarch who lives in a Gothic hilltop castle. Stopping in the capital Vaduz, we'll have some time to stroll around and enjoy the scenery. This tiny country is only the size of Manhattan, but it's skyscrapers of a different sort that dominate the skyline. Next up, we'll head into Switzerland, driving passed stunning mountain vistas and four beautiful lakes as we make our way to the city of Lucerne, a city with all the ingredients that make for a beautiful Swiss city: sparkling lakes, a towering alpine skyline and an incredibly well-preserved Altstadt (Old Town). With covered bridges - check out the stunning Chapel bridge lined with flowers - brightly-coloured houses and delightful waterfront promenades, it'll be difficult not to fall head-over-heels for Lucerne. Continuing on to Interlaken, we'll spend the night in the Swiss Alps in preparation for a full day of adventure tomorrow! Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 4: Free day in Switzerland.

Today, you have the option of joining our excursion up to Jungfrauoch, the highest train station in Europe! The train journey itself is unforgettable, as you wind your way through some of the most picturesque mountain scenery in Switzerland. See quaint little villages nestled beneath the craggy peaks above, and look out for mountain streams cascading down the mountainside. The final stretch of the train-ride takes you literally through the mountain, and, when you emerge, the view from the top is spectacular - provided it's a clear day, of course! At this height, there's year-round snow, so you'll be able to have snow-ball fights and build snowmen even in the height of summer. This is one part of



the journey that is definitely not to be missed! Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

### Day 5: Visit The Italian Lakes.

Today, we leave the Swiss Alps and wind our way toward Italy's Lake District, stopping at famous Lake Como. An enormous expanse of water fringed by picturesque scattered villages, it's perhaps not surprising that one of the vil-lages, Laglio, is where George Clooney has a luxurious villa. The afternoon is yours in the Italian Lake District. Enjoy local food, go for a stroll or just find a comfortable spot to enjoy the view. Surely, this is the epicentre of 'La Dolce Vita'! Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 6: Visit Pisa and Florence.

Today we indulge in some serious sight-seeing! First off, we'll stop at the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is then a short drive to Florence, where your expert local Italian guide can't wait to show you around and introduce you to The Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio and Santa Croce Basilica, among others. Later you will head to your accommodation in the beautiful Tuscan hills, where you will enjoy a traditional Tuscan dinner. Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 7: Visit Verona & Venice.

Our first stop today is Verona, the city where Shakespeare set his immortal tragedy Romeo and Juliet. Then, we're off to Venice! This unique city straddles 118 islands, and is known for its canals, gondolas, Venetian masks, piazzas, art, traditional glass and lace making. On arrival, your tour leader will escort you on an orientation walking tour of the city, so you can use your free time in the early evening to explore properly. After an espresso, don't miss the opportunity to explore Venice the traditional way - from the canals on an optional gondola ride. Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

**Day 8: Visit the Dolomit National Park, Andechs & return to Munich.**

We now wind our way back to Munich, taking in some epic sights as we drive through the Dolomit National Park. Our next stop is the monastery town of Andechs, something of an undiscovered gem, and a totally unique feature of our Scenic Europe tour! You will have the chance to eat a hearty lunch in Andechs, enjoying the Alpine countryside views before returning finally to Munich for our final night of the tour. Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

**Day 9: Free day in Munich**

Spend your day shopping around Mariahilf street or one of the major department stores. If you are after bargains head to Ingolstadt Village Outlet mall with more than 110 brand stores with savings of up to 60% off the regular prices. Alternatively you can also take one of our optional tours and spend your day exploring Munich and its vicinity. Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

**Day 10: Depart from Munich**

After breakfast your private transfer will take you to the airport for your flight back home. In case your flight is in the afternoon or in the evening you can do some last minute shopping, visit galleries or museums or even take one of our half day optional tours. Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 9 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room
- 9 breakfasts, 4 dinners.
- 10 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- Free Wi-fi in all hotels
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day eight, who will be on hand with advice and tips to ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your choice once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****MUNICH**

Azimut City Ost  
A&O Munich Laim

**INNSBRUCK**

Hotel Sailor  
Alphotel  
Hotel Alpinpark

**SWITZERLAND**

Hotel Schönbühl  
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken  
Alpenrose  
Hotel Baren, Ringgenberg  
Hotel Oberland  
Ibis Budget Lucerne

**ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT**

Hotel Stazione  
Hotel Lovere Resort & Spa  
Hotel Continental

**TUSCANY**

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

**VENICE**

Hotel Centrale  
Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia

# 9 DAYS - ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

## Lose yourself in the beauty of Tuscany

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Welcome to Rome

Welcome to Rome! The first day of the tour is an arrivals day: meet up with your tour guide at our accommodation in the afternoon and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! If you arrive early, head into the city and see some of the sites that make Rome famous the world over. An ancient city that has seen the rise and fall of entire empires, there is no shortage of historical real estate to feast your eyes on. Not to mention designer shopping and brilliant food. Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner.  
Dinner.

#### Day 2: Rome

Today we'll take a guided walking tour of the city, stopping off at the landmarks that have made Rome a perennial favourite with travellers all over the world. See ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more remnants of Rome's illustrious past as capital of this incredible country – and of the Roman Empire at large. Be sure to see sightseeing highlights like the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Roman Forum, the Pantheon and the countless other attractions that make Rome famous the world over. Later, you'll have the option of taking a guided walking tour of the Vatican City. Marvel at glittering artworks, vast marble halls and opulent architecture – all part and parcel of the Vatican's status as the seat of papal power. Eating and drinking well is also an important part of Roman life, and as they say, 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.' Try excellent Italian cuisine, and be sure to grab a famous Roman gelato while you're sight-seeing!  
Breakfast

#### Day 3: Rome - Venice

Leaving the capital behind, we'll drive through the region of Umbria. Known as the 'fruit bowl of Italy', it is famous for its produce, food and beautiful mountainous landscapes. Prepare for one of the most spectacular sights in Europe as we approach Orvieto, a city perched dramatically atop sheer vertical volcanic rock. We'll take the funicular up to the historic centre, where you'll have some free time to explore and see the sights, including the exquisite facade of the Cathedral of Orvieto, the papal residence and the Alborno fortress, before we travel on to Venice. We'll get a classic Venetian view from the famous Rialto Bridge on our orientation walking tour. While in Venice you also have the opportunity to board a gondola and see Venice the traditional way, try classic Venetian cuisine, visit the famous museums and art galleries and simply get the full Venetian experience!  
Breakfast, dinner



#### Day 4: Venice free day

Take the time to explore today on your free day in Venice. Marvel at this incredible city, which features more artistic masterpieces per square kilometre than any other place on earth! Speak with your tour leader for suggestions for your free day in Venice. You also have the option of joining our evening excursion to Verona, where you can see Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo in Shakespeare's most famous play – and see the ancient amphitheatre built by the Romans.  
Breakfast.

**Day 5: Venice - Florence - Tuscany**

Today, we make our way to the beautiful city of Florence, stopping along the way in Lake Garda for a photo stop. The next stop is Verona for a look at Juliet's balcony – where Juliet is said to have been wooed by Romeo. Then, we make our way to Florence for a guided walking tour. Learn more about the heritage of this city, which stretches back through the ages to encompass Renaissance artworks and Roman ruins. Sights to see in Florence include Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and of course Michelangelo's David. A cultural and political focal point during the Renaissance, Florence is endowed with a huge variety of important buildings and famous artworks. We'll then make our way to our accommodation in Tuscany.

Breakfast, Antipasto in Tuscany

**Day 6: Tuscany free day or the Cinque Terre & Pisa**

Enjoy the option of a free day today in beautiful Tuscany, where options include further time in the city of Florence or exploring the spa town of Montecatini. You also have the option of joining an optional excursion to Pisa and Cinque Terre! A highlight of any tour to Italy, you'll be able to snap photos of the legendary Leaning Tower of Pisa and explore the grounds. We will then continue on to the stunning coastal town of La Spezia, the gateway to the Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre literally means 'Five Lands' and consists of five coastal cliff-side towns linked by rail and by footpaths. On this excursion return transport via Pisa is included in your tour package, and you have the option of purchasing a pass to enter Cinque Terre.

Breakfast

**Day 7: Tuscany - Rome**

Today will give you more chance to enjoy Tuscany! We make our way through one of the world's most picturesque countryside landscapes, admiring Tuscan farmhouses, vineyards and olive groves as we drive by. We will make a stop in San Gimignano to sample local wines and antipasto, before rounding off the day with dinner when we arrive back in Rome.

Breakfast, dinner

**Day 8: Free day in Rome**

Today you will have a free day in Rome. You can enjoy the whole day shopping in one of countless boutiques and department stalls in the centre of Rome or if you are after bargains visit one of outlet malls on the outskirts of Rome. You could also take one of our optional tours and visit Naples and Pompeii.

Breakfast

**Day 9: Rome**

After breakfast, our tour concludes, and it's time to say your goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening flight you can continue with your last-minute shopping or gallery and museum hopping. Arrivederci Italia!

Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 8 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners, 1 Antipasto in Tuscany.
- 10 included Experiences, 2 optional Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day seven, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****ROME**

Club House Roma  
Christophoro Colombo  
Hotel American Palace  
Park Hotel Ginevra

**TUSCANY**

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
Hotel Autopark  
Hotel Raffaello

**VENICE**

Hotel Centrale  
Hotel Residence Elite  
NH Venezia Congress Center  
Hotel San Guiliano  
Hotel Venezia

# 13 DAYS - ITALIAN CIRCLE

## The dazzling scenery of Cinque Terre, Italy

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Rome

Welcome to Rome! If you arrive early enough, head into the city to see what Rome has to offer. An ancient city that has seen the rise and fall of entire empires, there is no shortage of historical real estate to feast your eyes on. Not to mention designer shopping and brilliant food. Meet up with your tour leader at our hotel in the afternoon, and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner. Dinner.

#### Day 2: Rome

Today, we'll take a guided walking tour of the city, stopping off at the landmarks that have made Rome a perennial favourite with travellers all over the world. See Ancient Roman architecture, medieval buildings, Renaissance artworks and more remnants of Rome's illustrious past as capital of this incredible country. Highlights today include the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and the Roman Forum. And let's not forget Trevi Fountain – legend has it that if you drop a coin into the fountain, you'll return again one day. In your free time this afternoon, why not visit the Coliseum, probably Rome's most recognisable landmark, and the centre of Roman social life. See where countless gladiators, martyrs, wild animals and other unfortunate souls did battle in the name of entertainment. Breakfast.

#### Day 3: Rome - Sorrento

Leaving Rome, we'll head to Sorrento peninsula via Pompeii. As it's our first day on the coach, take the time to get to know your fellow travel companions, and listen out for tips on Italy from your tour leader. On our way to the coastal region of Sorrento, you will see Mount Vesuvius and we will stop at Pompeii to explore the ruins of this ancient Roman town, destroyed in 79AD in a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Preserved since ancient times under meters of ash and pumice, it offers superb insights into life (and death) in the ancient Roman Empire.

As we leave Pompeii behind, you will have the option to visit the beautiful Amalfi coast, with some free time to explore the town of Amalfi. Upon arrival on the Sorrento peninsula we have a two night stay. Amongst other things, this area is famous for limoncello (a sweet lemon liqueur), and this is the perfect way to finish off your meal.

Breakfast, dinner

#### Day 4: Sorrento free day

A gorgeous old town hugging the coastline, the Sorrento peninsula is our base for the day. Explore the towns in your own time, and seek out little shops producing lace-work, ceramics and specialising in marquetry (the art and craft of



applying pieces of veneer to create incredible artwork). Alternatively, choose our optional excursion to the famous Isle of Capri. Capri has charmed everyone from Roman emperors to modern showbiz elites. Try it for yourself and enjoy the smooth mix of cafés, rugged coastline, ancient Roman ruins and stylish piazzas.

Breakfast.

**Day 5: Sorrento - Assisi**

Today, we depart the coast and head north to Assisi, stopping en route in Cassino. Famed for the site of the Abbey of Monte Cassino, along with its rolling green hills, vineyards and rivers, the city was also the scene of fierce fighting in World War II, which left the town almost completely destroyed. After a comfort stop here, we continue on to the region of Umbria and the medieval town of Assisi, whose most famous son, St Francis, was born here in 1181. A charming town and the most popular pilgrimage site in Italy, you will enjoy the ancient churches and basilicas – many of them are just as St Francis would have seen them almost one thousand years ago!

Breakfast, dinner

**Day 6: Assisi - Venice**

Leaving the churches and basilicas behind, we head to Venice, stopping off for a comfort stop in Europe's third-smallest state – San Marino. Claiming to be the oldest surviving sovereign state in the world, San Marino was founded by Saint Marinus on the 3rd of September 301, and is now one of the most popular day-trip destinations for visitors to the area. Situated on a hilltop, you will witness stunning views of the surrounding countryside and the Adriatic sea. You will have ample time to explore and to shop.

Once we've had a look around, we're off to the canals of Venice! Here we'll take an orientation walking tour with your tour leader, including the Rialto Bridge and St Marks Square. Sample some of the city's culinary delights and marvel at this incredible city – which features more artistic masterpieces per square kilometre than any other place on earth!

Breakfast.

**Day 7: Venice free day**

Take the time to explore today on your free day in Venice. Get a classic Venetian view from the famous Rialto Bridge, board a gondola and see Venice the way it should be seen, try Venetian cuisine, visit museums & art galleries and get the full Venetian experience! Alternatively you can simply relax and soak up the sun on the sandy beaches at Jesolo or Lido. There's also St Marks Square, The Bridge of Sighs and the Doge's Palace to see – plus any number of culinary delights to sample, too!

Breakfast.

**Day 8: Venice - Verona - Italian Lake District**

First up today, we'll stop off in 'fair Verona' to catch a glimpse of Juliet's balcony, where Romeo supposedly wooed Juliet in Shakespeare's classic 'Romeo & Juliet.' Beset by family feuds, drama and romance since its founding in Roman times, Verona has its share of stories to tell. Look out for the 2000 year old arena and the ancient city gates. Later, we head to the Italian Lakes – and you'll find out just why famous writers like DH Lawrence and Hemingway were so inspired by this region of Italy. Peek at palatial lakeside villas, and revel in the pleasant mix of luxury and rural charm.

Breakfast, dinner

**Day 9: Italian Lake District - La Spezia**

Leaving the beautiful Italian Lakes, we head to the Cinque Terre region. Made up of five picturesque Italian towns, Cinque Terre features hiking routes and trains running

regularly along the coastline between the towns of Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. With cars and motorcycles banned from the towns, you'll have a wonderful time exploring the towns by train or by foot. Each town has its own unique charm – we are certain you will fall in love with each and every one! As you explore, why not taste local wines along with local produce such as pesto, freshly-caught fish and sweet lemons? Unforgettable!

Breakfast.

**Day 10: La Spezia - Florence - Tuscany**

On our way to Florence, we stop off at the famous town of Pisa to get a few shots of its distinctive Leaning Tower. Now over 800 years old, it's a classic sight in Italy and well worth a visit. Bragging rights are all yours! On arrival in Florence, we take a guided walking tour of the city, exploring many of the most famous sites and gaining local insight from our guide. Sights to see in Florence include Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and of course Michelangelo's David. A cultural and political focal point during the Renaissance, Florence is endowed with a huge variety of important buildings and famous artworks. After exploring, it's off to our accommodation in the Tuscan hills, in the ancient spa town of Montecatini Terme. Later, you are free to search for that perfect restaurant or ask your tour leader for recommendations.

**Day 11: Tuscany - Rome**

Today, we enjoy a Tuscan highlights driving tour, winding our way through one of the world's most picturesque countryside landscapes. We also stop off in the medieval town of San Gimignano with its amazing towers, to sample local wines and enjoy Antipasto (a selection of cheese, cured meats, bread and olives). This afternoon, we stop at the town of UNESCO World Heritage town of Siena – featuring largely gothic artistic remnants, as opposed to the Renaissance flourishes of Florence, for a true Tuscan experience. We then return home to Rome to round things off with a celebratory dinner.

Breakfast, dinner

**Day 12: Free day in Rome**

Today you will have a free day in Rome. When in Italy, it would be a sin not to do some shopping, have a nice lunch and... do some more shopping. You can enjoy the whole day shopping in one of countless boutiques and department stalls in the centre of Rome or if you are after bargains visit one of outlet malls on the outskirts of Rome. You could also take one of our optional tours.

Breakfast

**Day 13: Rome**

After breakfast, our tour concludes, and it's time to say your goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening flight you can continue with your last-minute shopping or gallery and museum hopping. Arrivederci Italia!

Breakfast. Private airport transfer.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 12 night's accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 12 breakfasts, 1 Anitpasta in Tuscany and 5 dinners.
- 14 Included Experiences, (including guided walks, orientation walks, driving tours of certain regions.)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Private return airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Services of your tour leader from day 1 till day 11, who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### ROME

Club House Roma  
 Christophoro Colombo  
 Hotel American Palace  
 Park Hotel Ginevra

#### SORRENTO

Hotel Giosue A Mare

Hotel Oriente  
 Hotel Moon Valle  
 Hotel Mary  
 Hotel La Residenza

#### ASSISI

Hotel Casa Leonori  
 Hotel Domus Pacis

#### ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

Hotel Stazione  
 Hotel Lovere Resort & Spa  
 Hotel Continental

#### VENICE

Hotel Centrale  
 Hotel Residence Elite  
 NH Venezia Congress Center  
 Hotel San Guiliano  
 Hotel Venezia

#### TUSCANY

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio  
 Hotel Autopark  
 Hotel Raffaello

#### CINQUE TERRE REGION

Hotel Firenze  
 Hotel Astoria  
 Hotel Corallo

# 12 DAYS - SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY

Discover the wonders of southern Italy on this 10 day tour - start in Rome and explore Sorrento, Pompeii, Alberobello and the island of Sicily

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome! Meet up with your tour guide at our hotel in the afternoon and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! This evening, we'll enjoy a 'Rome by night' driving tour, where you'll see the many historical sights of Ancient Rome, including the Trevi Fountain, Colosseum and Pantheon. During the tour we will stop off at a local restaurant for dinner so you can really get to know the other passengers on your tour.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Rome - Sorrento

Leaving Rome, we'll head to the Sorrento peninsula, stopping off along the way to see Mount Vesuvius and to explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79AD in a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Upon arrival on the Sorrento peninsula we have a two night stay. This area is famous for limoncello (a sweet lemon liqueur), the perfect way to finish off your included dinner this evening!

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Sorrento - Free day

A gorgeous old town hugging the coastline, the Sorrento peninsula is our base for the day. Explore the towns in your own time, or alternatively choose our optional excursion to the famous Isle of Capri, where you can spend some free time exploring the rugged coastline, ancient Roman ruins and stylish piazzas.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Sorrento - Alberobello

Today we'll head east and explore the southern Italian region of Apulia. Arriving in Alberobello, we'll enjoy an orientation tour of the region's famous 'trullo' houses. These beautiful 14th century whitewashed stone huts have iconic conical roofs, and are specific to the Itria Valley. This afternoon you'll have free time to further explore Alberobello; check out the trullo church of St Antony and the trulli museum.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Alberobello - Matera - Taormina

This morning we'll make our way to the 'football' of Italy, taking a comfort stop along the way in the ancient cave city of Matera. Known as "la Città Sotterranea" (the Subterranean City), it is famous for its extensive cave-dwelling districts, the 'sassi'. We'll then take a drive through the beautiful Reggio Calabria region before enjoying a ferry crossing to the island of Sicily. Prepare for a stunning view of Mount Etna as we make our way to Taormina, where we'll enjoy an evening walking tour before dinner.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation



### DAY 6: Taormina - Free day

Enjoy a free day to relax on Sicily's beautiful beaches, or explore the island's quaint towns. The town of Taormina itself is one of Italy's most popular summer destinations, perched on the side of a mountain and offering medieval churches, a castle and Greek amphitheatre. For those looking to explore further afield on their Italian tour, speak to your tour leader for their recommendations, including boat tours of the beautiful coast line, paragliding and 'Godfather' tours.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 7: Taormina - Catania - Agrigento**

Today we'll drive through the heart of Sicily, along the way taking a comfort stop in Catania. With a Unesco-listed historic centre boasting many beautiful baroque buildings. This afternoon, get your cameras ready as stopping at the 'Valle dei Templi' (Valley of the Temples), one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture. We'll then arrive at our accommodation in Agrigento. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 8: Agrigento - Palermo**

Enjoy a beautiful drive this morning as we make our way round the western tip of Sicily to the island's capital, Palermo. Founded more than 2,700 years ago by the Phoenicians, Palermo is noted for its history, culture, architecture and food. Arriving early afternoon, you'll enjoy a walking tour to introduce you to the city's highlights, including the San Giovanni degli Eremiti church, Piazza Indipendenza, Porta Nuova (The New Gate) and the Cathedral of Palermo. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Palermo - Free day**

Enjoy a full day to further explore Sicily's capital. Over the centuries Palermo has been colonized by many different rulers over the centuries, including the Greeks, Romans and Normans. This melting pot has resulted in a variety of architectural styles for you to explore in the historic old town. This evening, we'll take an overnight ferry back to the Italian mainland. For travellers who wish to stay on in Palermo, tonight's hotel accommodation will be included in the tour price.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 10: Palermo - Rome**

After breakfast we'll say goodbye to Palermo and depart to Rome. The coach will drop off at the hotel in the evening. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 11: Rome**

Today you will have a free day in Rome. You can enjoy the whole day shopping in one of countless boutiques and department stalls in the centre of Rome or if you are after bargains visit one of outlet malls on the outskirts of Rome. You could also take one of our optional tours and visit Naples and Pompeii.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 12: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast, our tour concludes, and it's time to say your goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening flight you can continue with your last-minute shopping or gallery and museum hopping. Arrivederci Italia!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 11 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private ensuite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 11 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.

- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 11 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****Rome**

Hotel American Palace  
Hotel Club House Roma  
Hotel Cristoforo Colombo

**Sorrento**

Hotel Oriente  
Giosue A Mare

**Alberobello**

Hotel Astoria

**Taormina**

Hotel Albatros

**Agrigento**

Hotel Akrabello

**Palermo**

Hotel San Paolo



# 13 DAYS - HIGHLIGHTS OF SCANDINAVIA

Experience the highlights of all three Scandinavian countries, including Copenhagen, Oslo, the Norwegian fjords and Stockholm

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Copenhagen

Welcome to the start of your Scandinavian adventure! Your tour leader will be waiting for you at our hotel during the afternoon. After everyone's checked in, we'll enjoy an included dinner where you can get to know your fellow travellers and learn a bit more from your tour leader about what incredible experiences the next 12 days will bring! Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Explore Copenhagen

Enjoy a free day to explore Copenhagen at your own pace. Options include the Tivoli Gardens, a famous amusement park and pleasure garden, and the Rundetaarn, an astronomical observatory that offers fantastic views of the city, and is known worldwide for its unique equestrian staircase leading to the top. You could also return to Nyhavn and enjoy a drink on the canal side, and visit Freetown Christiania, a commune in the east of the city that was established by squatters in 1971 and attracts nonconformists from around the world. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Odense - Skagen - Frederikshavn

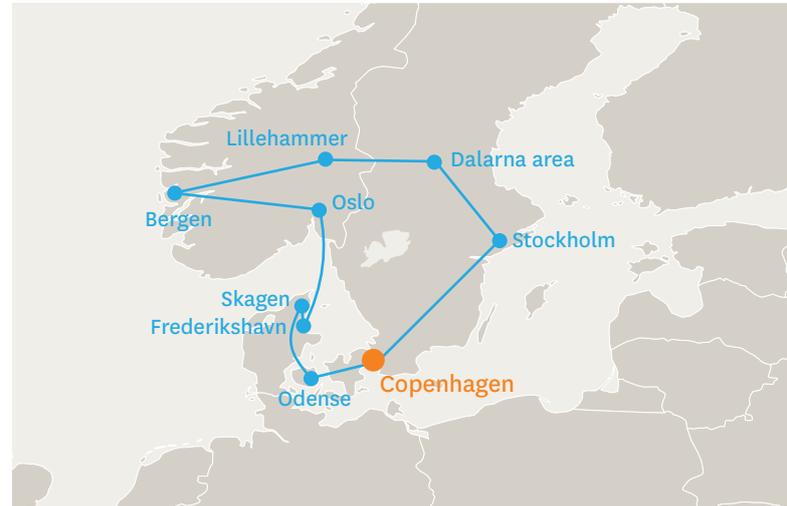
Make sure you prepare your camera this morning, because you'll be witnessing some absolutely stunning Danish countryside! Our first stop today is Odense, where we'll enjoy an orientation tour of the home town of prolific author and fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen. We'll then make our way to the town of Skagen, where you'll have the chance to walk to the tip of the Grenen sandbar peninsular, the northmost point of Denmark. After a full day of exploring we'll head to Frederikshavn for a relaxing dinner at our hotel! Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Frederikshavn - Oslo

Three countries in one day! This morning we'll take a ferry across to Gothenburg before driving on to Oslo (don't worry, we'll come back to Sweden later on in the tour!). On arrival in the Norwegian capital we'll enjoy a walking tour with an expert local guide, who will show you sights including Akershus Castle, Oslo Opera House, the Parliament building and the Royal Palace. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Oslo - Bergen

As we travel from Oslo to the west coast we'll journey through the heart of Norway, witnessing the incredible scenery changing from emerald green landscapes to cobalt blue fjords to white snow-clad mountains. This evening we'll arrive in Bergen, Norway's second-largest city and known as "the city among the seven mountains". The beautiful Unesco World Heritage-listed Bryggen quay is the highlight, while Norway's famous fjords are just a short journey away. Upon arrival, your tour leader will take you on an orientation walking tour of Bergen, introducing you to the highlights of Norway's first capital and former seat of royalty, including the old Hanseatic wharf Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Bergen Fortress. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation



### DAY 6: Bergen - Free day

Enjoy a free day to explore the beautiful Norwegian city of Bergen and the surrounding area. You could take the Fløibanen, the Bergen funicular railway which will hoist you one thousand feet up Floyen mountain for amazing views of the city, or return to Bryggen to spend some more time exploring the classic medieval architecture, markets and warehouses. You can also choose to take our optional seafood buffet cruise around Bergen harbour. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 7: Norwegian Fjords - Lillehammer

There are more than a thousand fjords in Norway, with most concentrated on the west coast, so we'll be perfectly located today as we explore the scenic heartland of Norway on our way to Lillehammer. We'll take a stop off along the way in Gudvangen, a village located at the end of Nærøyfjord, arguably Norway's most famous fjord. You'll have the option to visit a viking village, and then take a cruise along the Nærøyfjord and Aurlandsfjorden fjords to Flam - still blue water is framed by towering cliffs and dramatic waterfalls - the easiest picture-postcard photo's you will ever take. Late evening we'll arrive in Lillehammer, a ski resort town in southern Norway, where we'll enjoy an included dinner. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 8: Lillehammer - Dalarna area

Today we'll continue on our journey and cross into Sweden, where the stunning natural landscapes keep coming as we take a scenic drive through the mountains and deep forests to the Dalarna area in central Sweden - keep an eye out for elk and moose! Dalarna is famous for the Dalecarlian horse, a traditional Swedish hand-painted wooden horse statuette painted in bright colours. We'll visit a workshop that produces these iconic ornaments, which uses wood from the slow-growing pine forests around the nearby Lake Siljan. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Dalarna – Stockholm**

As we make our way through the Swedish countryside, we'll take a lunch stop in Uppsala. Sweden's fourth largest city is the seat of the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, and home to Scandinavia's largest cathedral - the striking Uppsala Cathedral. On arrival in Stockholm we'll enjoy a walking tour with an expert local guide. You'll be introduced to the highlights of Sweden's capital including the Royal Palace, Gamla Stan (the old town and heart of the city) and the



AF Chapman ship. This evening enjoy an included dinner. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 10: Stockholm - Free day**

Enjoy the day exploring the city of Stockholm! Gamla Stan is the old town, comprised of red, orange and terracotta-coloured buildings overlooking narrow cobblestone streets. The numerous islands that make up the town offer fascinating walks, especially through the Djurgården, where you can visit Skansen, the open-air Swedish history museum. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 11: Stockholm - Copenhagen**

Today you are on the final leg of your Scandinavian tour, look out for lakes, forests and rolling fields as we drive

through the Swedish countryside. Just before we get to Copenhagen, we will stop at the town of Helsingør. This town is home to Kronborg Castle, known to many as 'Elsinore' and the setting for Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. We'll see the castle from the water as we take a short ferry from Sweden back to Denmark.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 12: Free day in Copenhagen**

Today you will have a free day in Copenhagen. You can enjoy the whole day shopping or you could also take one of our optional tours.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 13: End of tour**

After breakfast, our tour concludes and it's time to say goodbyes. Private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport. In case you have an afternoon or late evening flight you can continue with your last-minute shopping.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 12 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 12 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 11 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION:****Copenhagen**

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

**Frederikshavn**

Hotel Frederikshavn Sømandshjem

**Oslo**

Park Inn by Radisson Oslo

**Bergen**

Thon Hotel Bergen Brygge

**Lillehammer**

Hafjell Resort AS - Hotel & Apartments

**Dalarna**

Scandic Lugnet Falun

**Stockholm**

IBIS Styles Stockholm Jarva

# 19 DAYS - NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Discover Scandinavia, Russia, Central Europe and the Baltic states on our Northern tour!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Amsterdam

Welcome to the start of your tour! Your tour leader will be waiting for you at our accommodation during the afternoon. After everyone's checked in, we'll take a canal cruise of the city - one of the best ways to see this amazing city and its sights! We'll also enjoy dinner on-board as the city drifts by. Afterwards, your time is yours to spend as you like. Stroll around the canals (don't forget to keep an eye out for the bicycles!) as you explore this fascinating and picturesque city! You will also have the option to join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous Red Light District! Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Hamburg

We depart Amsterdam this morning and make our way to Germany, stopping along the way at a local Dutch farm to see how clogs (traditional Dutch footwear) and local cheeses are produced in the traditional way. After sampling some delicious cheese (this is the perfect place to pick up a souvenir of your time in the Netherlands), we'll make our way onward to a photo stop at a nearby windmill - a common sight in the Dutch countryside! We then travel through northern Germany, arriving in Hamburg for a quick comfort stop late afternoon. We'll then make our way to our accommodation in the north of Germany. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Copenhagen

This morning after breakfast we'll cross the border and make our way to the Danish capital of Copenhagen. Welcome to Scandinavia! As we cross the border onto Danish soil, the drive towards Copenhagen offers fantastic views, and we will cross Europe's longest bridge. On arrival in the Danish capital, you'll enjoy a tour of the city, where your tour leader will introduce you to highlights of the city, including the parliament house, Tivoli, town hall, Rosenborg, and the little mermaid statue. The city's prosperity and confidence are hard to miss, and it'll soon be evident why this charming city has been voted one of the world's most liveable so many years in a row. It's clean, safe, and very easy to get around - and blessed with cosy cafés and world-famous restaurants!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Stockholm

This morning we'll leave Copenhagen and take a short drive north to the port town of Helsingør. This town is home to Kronborg Castle, known to many as 'Elsinore' and the setting for Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. We'll see the castle from the water as we take a short ferry ride to Sweden. It's then a long drive from the port of Helsingborg through the stunning rural Swedish scenery as we head toward the capital,



Stockholm. Look out for lakes, forests and rolling fields as we drive! On arrival in Stockholm, we'll enjoy an evening walking tour of the city centre, seeing famous sights such as the Royal Palace, the narrowest alley and the AF Chapman ship.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Stockholm - Helsinki (Overnight Ferry)

Spend time this morning exploring the city of Stockholm! Gamla Stan is the old town, comprised of red, orange and terracotta-coloured buildings overlooking narrow cobblestone streets. The numerous islands that make up the town offer fascinating walks, especially through the Djurgården, where you can visit Skansen, the open-air Swedish history museum. Otherwise, spot beautiful old ships in the harbour and visit some of the many world-class museums and art galleries. This afternoon we take an overnight ferry to Helsinki in Finland, another of the world's most liveable cities! Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Helsinki

Arriving in the late morning, you'll have the whole afternoon to explore the Finnish capital at your own pace. An effortlessly cool city, Helsinki prides itself on being slightly off-the-wall, playing with decor and design traditions to humorous effect. Elegant cafés, magnificent museums and impressive Art Nouveau architecture all combine to create a city that is certain to leave an impression! If you want to escape the city, there is the option to explore the nearby Nuukio National Park.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 7: St Petersburg

This morning, we'll depart Helsinki and make our way to the Russian border; get your passport at the ready for a new stamp that will be a real talking point! We then continue on to the Russian city of St Petersburg! On arrival, we'll enjoy a comprehensive city tour with our local guide, spotting some

of the more notable buildings and sights. Built by Italian architects and sporting neoclassical and baroque architecture that overlooks its many canals, this city stands in stark contrast to the red brick and onion domes of Moscow.

Alternatively, if you do not have the necessary visa to travel to Russia, you can elect to stay on for two extra nights in Helsinki before ferry transportation to Estonia for an extra

#### **DAY 9: St Petersburg - Free day**

Another free day in St Petersburg! Use your time to explore this fascinating city. Perhaps join us on our optional tour of the world-famous Hermitage Museum, which also includes a visit to the Church of the Saviour on Blood, one of St Petersburg's most famous attractions. The church was built on the very spot where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated, and is dedicated to his memory. The Hermitage Museum, founded



night in Tallinn, where you will meet up with the group when they arrive from St Petersburg. There is a small charge for this amendment.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 8: St Petersburg - Free day**

Today is all yours to explore St Petersburg! Why not visit some of the great sights you saw on last night's tour? Alternatively, join our day trip excursion to the Russian capital, Moscow - an expert local guide will take you on a tour of the Kremlin grounds and the orthodox churches of the Tsar (entrance is included in the excursion price). After some free time for lunch, your guide will take you on a Moscow city tour, followed by some free time to explore Red Square. We then take the high-speed train back to St. Petersburg. This is a full day trip, with approximately 6-7 hours to enjoy Moscow accompanied by an English-speaking guide. *Please note: this excursion must be pre-booked; contact us for more information.*

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

by Catherine the Great and now one of the largest and oldest museums in the world. Some three million items make up its collections, and it also boasts the largest collection of paintings in the world! This evening, an optional traditional Russian folk show is not to be missed! Your tour leader will organise everything for you, including vodka and canapés! Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 10: Tallinn**

Bidding farewell to St Petersburg, we travel once again to the Russian border, and then on to the capital of Estonia. Tallinn is one of Europe's most enchanting cities, with a strong medieval influence contrasting with its more modern buildings. Explore the winding cobbled lanes overlooked by medieval church spires, and investigate cafés, bars and boutiques lying hidden in the carved stone walls. Listed as one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, Tallinn offers intriguing history while also managing to be a shopper's paradise. Ancient practices such as glass-blowing and pottery share the attention with Estonia's hippest young fashion design-

ers. After dinner this evening, be sure to check out the alternative nightlife that Tallinn has to offer - from medieval taverns to hip bars and clubs. For those who stayed on in Helsinki and skipped out Russia, you will have an extra night in Tallinn before the rest of the group arrives from St Petersburg.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 11: Riga

Leaving Estonia, we enter Latvia and make for Riga, possibly the most vibrant of the Baltic cities and blessed with a culture that you'll find irresistible. In contrast to its smaller neighbours, Riga goes all out with a buzzing atmosphere and impressive Art-Nouveau architecture. On arrival, your tour leader will take you on a walking tour of this impressive city and you can explore some of its famous landmarks and sights, including the famous central markets and many beautiful churches. This evening you will have the option to take a relaxing canal cruise around the city centre, and tonight don't forget to visit the skyline bar for incredible panoramic views of Riga.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 12: Vilnius

Making our way into Lithuania, we stop first at the Hill of Crosses, a famous site of pilgrimage in northern Lithuania. Loaded with around 100,000 crosses, they were first placed here back in 1831 by the relatives of those who fell during the local rebellion. Once we arrive in Vilnius, we enjoy an orientation tour of the city before enjoying some free time. A seductive city, Lithuania's capital exudes Old Town charm - so much so that it's been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. This is also where you'll find the world's only statue of musician and composer Frank Zappa, and a self-proclaimed - though unofficial - independent republic of Uzupis, inhabited almost solely by artists and bohemians. In contrast to the medieval history, there are also reminders of Vilnius' more recent and darker past, including remnants of the ghettos where the Jewish community lived during Nazi occupation, and the influence of the Soviet Union.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 13: Warsaw

Our final destination in Lithuania is a comfort stop at Europe's only historic national park, the town of Trakai. The main attraction is undoubtedly a view of the iconic brick-built castle at its centre, which lies on an island surrounded by crystal clear water. Arriving before the crowds of tourists, your pictures will be unspoiled! Back on the road, we head towards the Polish border. The cultural hub of Poland, Warsaw is a city of energy and action, racing to replace what was lost after being utterly destroyed in World War II. With classical music festivals, exciting and forward-thinking art exhibitions and relics of its Communist past, there's certainly no shortage of culture here. On arrival, a local guide will take you on a city tour, focusing on the faithfully reconstructed Old Town, before going for a traditional Polish dinner.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 14: Warsaw - Free day

Today is yours to spend as you wish! Visit some of the highly regarded museums, such as the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Chopin Museum, or the extensive collections of the National Museum. Being Sunday, you can enjoy free entry to the Royal Palace, and the occasional free music concert in Łazienki Park. Alternatively, you can further explore the Old Town, or join us on an exhilarating optional Communist tour of Warsaw. You will be driven around in Communist-era Nysa vans, with eccentric drivers and an expert local guide!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 15: Berlin

Heading west through Poland, today's morning stop is in Poznan, famous for its historic Old Town and as a coronation city of the early Polish kings. On our way we will stop for an optional tour of the Lech Brewery, Poland's largest brewery and part of the SABMiller family. We then cross into Germany and continue to the city of Berlin! Having prospered under the rule of the Nazis leading up to the Second World War and then enduring division of the cold war, symbolized in the infamous Berlin Wall. This is a fascinat-



ing city with a firm understanding of what it takes to rebuild and regenerate - over and over again; the very essence of creativity. Reminders of the past are everywhere, but Berlin has a vibrant culture to enjoy, too. On arrival, we'll take a driving tour through the city and see some of the city's more famous landmarks, before heading to our hotel. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 16: Berlin - Free day**

Today is a free day in Berlin, so take time to investigate some of the sights you would have seen yesterday on the driving tour, or strike out on your own to discover more of the city for yourself - the choice is yours! For an incredible bird's eye view of the city, head up the Berlin TV tower - located close to Alexanderplatz, it has become an icon of the capital. Fancy some museum action? Then head over to the museum island, a collection of five world-famous museums on an island in the heart of Berlin's city centre. After a day of exploring you may wish to relax or party; Berlin has you covered, with an incredibly vibrant nightlife offering plenty of bars, clubs and shows - from theatre to cabaret. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 17: Berlin - Hannover - Amsterdam**

After breakfast, we say goodbye to Berlin and head to Hannover for lunch. The centre of town was reconstructed in a medieval style after WWII; it's compact size makes for the perfect destination to explore during your lunch stop! We then leave Germany and cross into the Netherlands, arriving back at our Amsterdam hotel tonight - say farewell to your tour leader, driver and fellow passengers and celebrate your last night on tour together. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 18: Free day in Amsterdam**

Today is all yours. You can visit museums or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in Amsterdam. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around Amsterdam. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 19: Amsterdam**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Amsterdam's sights or do some last minute shoppings. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 18 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 18 breakfasts, 7 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 20 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **Amsterdam**

Hampton by Hilton Schipol Airport  
Holiday Inn Express Schipol Airport  
Park Inn Plaza Amsterdam Airport  
Crowne Plaza Amsterdam Schiphol  
Lake land Hotel

##### **Hamburg**

Park Inn Hamburg Nord  
Ibis St Pauli Messe  
City Hotel Hamburg Mitte  
**Copenhagen**

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport  
Cabinn City Hotel

##### **Stockholm**

IBIS Styles Stockholm Jarva

##### **Helsinki**

Holiday Inn West Ruoholahti  
Radisson Blu Seaside

##### **St. Petersburg**

Matisov Domik

##### **Tallinn**

Tallinn Seaport Hotel  
Tallink Express Hotel

##### **Riga**

Radisson Blu Latvja

##### **Vilnius**

Green Park Hotel Vilnius  
Ibis Styles Vilnius

##### **Warsaw**

Novotel Warswaza Centrum

##### **Berlin**

IBIS Berlin Ostbahnhof  
Ibis Berlin City West  
Grand City Berlin City East  
Tryp by Wyndham City East



# 9 DAYS - FRENCH EXPERIENCE

Explore the most popular tourist destination in the world in one incredible week, and experience France's fantastic food, wine, history & culture

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Paris

Bienvenue! Welcome to Paris for the start of your 8 day Taste of France tour! If you arrive early, take time to explore The City of Lights, stroll the historic boulevards, visit the many museums, shop in charming boutiques or simply people-watch from a Parisian cafe. This evening, you'll meet your tour leader and fellow travellers at our included welcome dinner.

Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Paris - Burgundy - Lyon

Leaving Paris behind us, we make our way to the Burgundy region, where we'll enjoy a wine tasting. If Paris is the place for romance, then Burgundy is the place for two other things France is well-known for: great food and fine wine. Famous 'Burgundies' (wines made in this region) include whites made from Chardonnay grapes, and dry reds made from the Pinot noir grape. We'll then travel on to Lyon, where your tour leader will take you on an orientation tour. The city, itself a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is famous for its gastronomy, historical landmarks and picturesque riverside setting. This evening, you'll have the opportunity to join your tour leader for an optional dinner, where you can try classic Lyonnais cuisine.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Lyon - Loire Valley

Our first stop today is at the incredible Château de Chambord. Built in the 15th century, this stunning example of a renaissance French Chateau (castle) stands on a hill above the River Loire, and is known for its summertime garden festival. The 'Festival des Jardins' (International Garden Festival) has been held here since 1992, and features up to 30 themed gardens that paint a panoramic picture of landscape design from around the world. After having some time to explore the chateau and the extensive gardens, we'll head to our accommodation in the Loire Valley, where we'll enjoy an included dinner.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Loire Valley - Free day

Enjoy a free day to explore the Loire Valley! This fertile river valley in central France is covered in vineyards, hundreds of chateaux and quaint French villages. The valley is one enormous UNESCO World Heritage Site, testament to the centuries of history and architectural riches offered by this region, and the perfect way to experience these treasures is on the chateaux optional excursion. In addition to experiencing the stunning French countryside and the charming town of Amboise, you will visit three of the finest chateaux in France; Château de Chenonceau, Château d'Amboise (where you can also visit the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci)



and Château de Chambord.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Mont St Michel - Bayeux - Normandy

Our first stop is at magical Mont St Michel. An island commune located just off the coast, it is one of France's most recognisable landmarks, and is another French entry on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. After some time to explore the abbey and monastery we'll travel on to Bayeux, a commune in north-western France. Bayeux is famous for the bayeux Tapestry, a large embroidered cloth more than 70 metres long which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England. You'll have free time to see the tapestry in the Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux, or alternatively the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy, which offers a great insight into WWII and the prominent

role this region played during the Normandy Landings. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 6: Normandy beaches - Paris

This morning we'll explore 'Omaha' D-Day landing beach. It was here that the Allied forces landed in June 1944 during WWII. The largest seaborne invasion in history, the Normandy landings began the invasion of German-occupied



Western Europe and led to the eventual liberation of France. You'll have time to explore the area and reflect on all that transpired here, as well as the opportunity to visit the Arromanches 360 cinema. This optional experience tells the story of the Battle of Normandy thanks to archive images gathered from around the world. The film is a tribute to soldiers from all countries and to the 20,000 civilians who were killed during this battle for the liberation of Europe. We'll then continue back to Paris where your tour leader will lead you on a driving tour of this famous city; you'll see the must-see sights including The Eiffel Tower, The Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe. To round off the last day of the tour we'll enjoy a farewell dinner so you can say your goodbyes and share your memories

of the last week with your fellow travellers and tour leader. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 7: A free day in Paris

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. Take an optional cruise up the River Seine, head up the tower of Montparnasse for exquisite views, visit L'Opéra Garnier, the Tuileries Gardens, Place de la Concorde, Hotel de Ville, the River Seine, l'Île de la Cité or the Louvre Museum. Get a glimpse of that most famous avenue, the Champs Elysees, overlooked by the famous Arc de Triomphe. Alternatively, why not head to the boutiques of La Marais? Or visit the graves of Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison at Père Lachaise Cemetery? Those with a taste for the macabre can even descend to the infamous catacombs! Alternatively, stay above ground and explore the museums, people-watch from a roadside café, or simply stroll the city, following in the footsteps of great painters, musicians and writers. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### DAY 8: Departure out of Paris

It's our last day already! After breakfast your private transfer will take you to the airport for your flight back home. In case your flight is in the afternoon or in the evening you can do some last minute shopping. We hope you've loved every minute of your French Experience adventure! Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 8 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### Paris

Ibis la Defense

##### Lyon

Campanile Lyon Centre

##### Loire Valley

Kyriad Tours Centre

##### Normandy

Campanile Bayeux

# 10 DAYS - BEST OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Explore the culture, cuisine and history of Spain & Portugal on our 9 Day Coach Tour starting in Madrid.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Madrid

Welcome to the start of your 10 day tour of Spain and Portugal! On arrival in Madrid, make your way to the hotel to meet up with your tour leader and the other travellers in the tour group. Depending on your arrival time, you may have time to explore Madrid, or alternatively relax in the comforts of the hotel. This evening, you will get your first taste of Spain with dinner included, giving you a great opportunity to meet the other travellers in the group. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Toledo - Granada

This morning, we leave Madrid and head to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Toledo. You are sure to fall in love with this charming medieval town, with its Gothic architecture and its impressive Cathedral. The tour continues south to the Moorish city of Granada. This afternoon, a walking tour is included to give you a great insight into this beautiful region of Spain. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Ronda - Seville

Sit back and relax, as we take you on a journey through Andalusia. This area is famous for Flamenco, tapas, matadors and bullfighting. Our first stop is Ronda, which is famous for its 'Puente Nuevo' (New Bridge) that divides the city and offers dramatic views of the surrounding countryside. Once you have explored Ronda, we head to Seville for a two night stay in a comfortable hotel. You will have time to freshen up before heading out to see the old town and many other sights on an included walking tour of the city. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Seville - Free day

Legend has it that Seville was founded by Hercules, and it has certainly had a colourful history it was named Hispalis by the Romans and Isbiliya by the Moors. With a full free day, you will have all the time in the world to explore this beautiful and pleasingly compact city. Seville is famous for its flamenco, tapas bars and orange bars. The cobbled streets of the old town make for a pleasing morning stroll, while in the afternoon you may wish to visit the Metropol Parasol for amazing views, the palaces of Alcázar Casa de Pilatos or the Museum of Flamenco. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Algarve - Lisbon

Today we travel to Lisbon, Portugal! Watch the countryside glide past from the comfort of the coach. Upon arrival in Lisbon we take you on an orientation tour of the capital, from the imposing Sao Jorge Castle to the pastel colours of the old town, Lisbon has it all. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation



### DAY 6: Lisbon - Free day

Today is your free day to explore Lisbon on your own. See Lisbon's landmarks, including the Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower or discover the hill top district of Bairro Alto, with dozens of restaurants and bars lining the narrow streets and lots to see and do. Fado music is unique to Portugal, and is arguably the oldest urban folk music in the world - you are sure to discover bars in this area playing this type of music. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 7: Porto

We continue our tour of Portugal and enter into Porto - the second largest city and one of the oldest European centres. Your tour leader will take you on a driving tour of Porto, where you will see Ponte de Luis - a stunning bridge which crosses the River Douro, the Clerigos Tower and many other famous landmarks. One of Portugal's famous exports is port wine, which is named after Porto, and you will have the opportunity to taste it this afternoon at the included Port tasting. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 8: Salamanca

It is time to depart Portugal and travel back to Spain, as our journey today takes us through the countryside. Once we arrive into Salamanca, you will have time to freshen up at the hotel and enjoy some free time. We recommend you visit the old town and go up the Cathedral Bell Tower, which offers amazing panoramic views of the town and its surroundings. To cap off the evening, we have dinner included, and this is your chance to taste the famous Spanish tapas! Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 9: Avila - Madrid

This morning we depart Salamanca and travel to Avila, where we take a comfort stop. Avila is notable for its many

Romanesque and Gothic churches, and the famous and incredibly well preserved medieval walls. We then continue onto the capital Madrid, where the tour will conclude in the afternoon.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 10: Free day in Madrid**

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. You can visit mu-



seums or galleries or spend your day shopping. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around Madrid.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 11: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Amsterdam's sights or do some last minute shoppings.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 10 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 10 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 9 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **Madrid**

Travelodge Madrid Alcalá

##### **Granada**

Hotel Juan Miguel

##### **Seville**

Tryp Sevilla Macarena

##### **Lisbon**

Hotel Roma, Lisboa

##### **Porto**

HF Ipanema Porto

HF Ipanema PARK

##### **Salamanca**

Siken Rona Dalba



# 9 DAYS – SPANISH EXPERIENCE

Discover the highlights of northern Spain, including Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Pamplona & San Sebastian

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Madrid

Welcome to the start of your Spanish adventure! Your tour leader will meet you at our hotel during the afternoon. After everyone's checked in, we'll enjoy an included dinner where you can get to know your fellow travellers and learn a bit more from your tour leader about what incredible experiences the next 7 days will bring!  
Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Madrid - Segovia - San Sebastian

This morning we'll depart Madrid and make our way to San Sebastian on Spain's northern coast. Along the way we'll enjoy a comfort stop in Segovia, a picturesque UNESCO World Heritage Site city which offers the highest concentration of Romanesque churches in Europe, as well as an incredibly well-preserved Roman aqueduct that runs into the heart of the city. Later this afternoon we'll arrive in San Sebastian, a charming city with a beautiful beach and vibrant nightlife. A foodie's paradise, San Sebastian is known for its Basque gastronomy, so this evening is best spent exploring the beachfront bars and indulging in pintxo, northern Spain's version of tapas!  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: San Sebastian - Pamplona - Zaragoza

Our first stop today is Pamplona, the historic city made famous by "the running of the bulls" during the San Fermin festival. Packed with history, you'll have some free time to explore the beautiful medieval city centre and see the city walls and citadel. We'll then head to Zaragoza, enjoying a wine tasting along the way, before taking a walking tour of the city. The city has experienced a long and varied history, with Roman, Moorish, Jewish and Christian communities leaving their marks over the centuries, as seen in the Basílica del Pilar cathedral, Aljafería Islamic palace and the Roman theatre.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Andorra - Barcelona

On our way to Barcelona we'll take a comfort stop in Andorra, a tiny independent principality with a population of just 85,000, located between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains. We'll enjoy some free time to explore Andorra la Vella, the highest capital city in Europe and a popular ski resort. Later this afternoon we'll arrive in the cosmopolitan capital of the Catalonia region, Barcelona. Your tour leader will acquaint you with the city's vibrant energy with a driving tour, so keep your eyes open for the famous Sagrada Familia cathedral, and some of the spectacular examples of Antoni Gaudi's eclectic art and architecture.  
Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation



### DAY 5: Barcelona - Free day

Today is all yours to do with as you please! The best views of the city can be had from Park Guell, and you can take in the panoramic splendour and skyline of Barcelona. The park itself offers a very interesting design which is a product of Anton Gaudi's challenging architectural visualisations. Barcelona is home to many of Gaudi's building designs and you could spend the whole day simply locating each one. One of his most famous works is that of the unfinished Sagrada Familia - an interpretation of a Gothic cathedral which is unlike any building you will have ever seen. You can't miss it from Park Guell, or most other vantage points in the city. Harbour tours, La Ramblas, the 'Old Town', museums, art galleries and some of Europe's best shopping - there is much to do in this incredible city. If you wish to participate in our optional excursion, we can organise tickets for you to see a traditional Flamenco show! The dance of passion is performed with style, flair and energy, and is a real experience not to be missed.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Peniscola - Valencia

Leaving Barcelona behind we'll make our way south down the coast towards Valencia, stopping off along the way in Peniscola. With a historic old town, beautiful promenade and sandy beach overlooked by an imposing castle built by the Knights Templar, there are few more picturesque places in Europe to enjoy a lunch stop. Once we've arrived in Valencia we'll enjoy an orientation tour of this thriving port city, which retains plenty of historic charm despite the decades of development that have given it a distinct space-age feel. As our last night on tour, we'll round off the day with a farewell paella dinner this evening.  
Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 7: Valencia - Madrid**

Enjoy some free time this morning to explore Valencia - why not visit the cathedral or stroll through the Turia River Bed Gardens? Our journey then continues through the historic La Mancha region, made famous by the legend of Don Quixote. Later, we'll explore Castillo de Belmonte, with entrance to this medieval castle included in your tour package. The interiors are dominated by spectacular stucco works in



the Gothic and Moorish styles, and a beautiful Neo-Gothic courtyard. Later this afternoon we'll arrive back in Madrid for the end of the tour.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 8: Free day in Madrid**

Today is all yours to explore as you wish. You can visit museums or galleries or spend your day shopping. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around Madrid.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation.

**DAY 9: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Amsterdam's sights or do some last minute shoppings.  
Breakfast.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 8 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 12 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****Madrid**

Holiday Inn Madrid Alcalá

**San Sebastian**

Ibis Irun

**Zaragoza**

Ibis Zaragoza Centro

**Barcelona**

Ibis Meridiana

**Valencia**

Ibis Valencia Bonaire

# 9 DAYS - ENGLISH EXPERIENCE

Discover the best of England – experience the stunning landscapes, explore the historic cities and enjoy the vibrant culture

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street.

### DAY 2: London - Stonehenge - Bath - Devon

Departing from London, we make our way to Stonehenge, the ancient archaeological wonder that has stood for thousands of years in the countryside of south-west England. You have the option to enter this ancient site for yourself and learn about the history of the area. Once we've had a chance to look around, we're off to the beautiful and historic city of Bath, famous of course for the Roman baths built here during the reign of the Empire. We'll then travel on to Devon, a county in the southwest of England known for its beautiful beaches and national parks. En-route we'll drive through Cheddar Gorge, a stunning limestone gorge, before enjoying an included welcome dinner so you can get to know your tour leader and fellow travellers. Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Mevagissey - St Ives - Tintagel Castle - Devon

Today we'll explore Devon and the neighbouring county of Cornwall, with the drive taking us through Dartmoor, the national park known for its stunning natural beauty. The first stop of the day is Tintagel Castle, where you'll have the option to visit the medieval island fortification long associated with the legends of King Arthur. We'll then make our way to St Ives - one of the most popular seaside resorts in Cornwall, it's the perfect place to grab some fish and chips for lunch. Our final stop of the day is at Mevagissey, a beautiful fishing village on the Cornish coast. This village dates back to the 14th century and you'll have some time to explore the narrow streets and shop for some souvenirs before we return to the hotel this evening. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: The Cotswolds - Bampton - Oxford

As we make our way to the Cotswolds we'll stop off in Malmesbury to see the Abbey where Athelstan, the first king of England, was buried in 941. The Cotswolds is an area known for the famous gold coloured Cotswold stone. The beautiful villages, historic towns and grand stately homes across the area are built from this material. This afternoon we'll visit the village of Bampton in Oxfordshire, which was the setting for the fictional Yorkshire village of Downton in the acclaimed TV drama Downton Abbey. Some of the shows most famous moments have been filmed in and around the church in Bampton. Later this afternoon we'll



arrive in Oxford, the historic city known worldwide as the home of the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world. You'll enjoy a walking tour of the historic city centre, where you'll see for yourself why Oxford is known as the 'city of dreaming spires', before an included dinner this evening in a local pub.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Stratford upon Avon - Liverpool

After breakfast we make for Stratford-upon-Avon, the hometown of William Shakespeare. A market town with more than 800 years of history, it still has many buildings that would be familiar to the bard if he was still around today. You'll enjoy some free time to explore - why not visit Shakespeare's house? We'll then travel north to Liverpool, a famous British port city with a rich history - music fans will be enthralled to be in the home of The Beatles. Spot the famous sites with our driving tour of the city, and explore the city yourself during your free time this evening. We suggest you head to Mathew Street, the beating heart of the live music scene and home to the world-famous 'Cavern Club', where The Beatles first made their mark on modern music. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Samlesbury - Windermere - Cumbria

A short drive from Liverpool is our first destination, Samlesbury, where we'll visit Samlesbury Hall, a famous medieval manor house and stately home built in the 14th century, this is included in your tour package. We'll then visit Windermere, the largest natural lake in England, situated in the stunningly beautiful Lake District National Park. You'll have some free time to explore Windermere before we head to our accommodation in Cumbria; considered one of England's most outstanding areas of natural beauty, it has provided inspiration for many famous artists, including William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 7: Hadrian's Wall - Alnwick Castle - Durham Cathedral - York**

Our first stop this morning is Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans as the northern limit of the Roman Empire and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will then have the opportunity to visit Alnwick Castle, the home of the Duke of Northumberland and the second-largest inhabited castle in England after Windsor Castle. This castle has also featured



in many famous films and TV shows, including two Harry Potter films (The Philosopher's Stone and The Chamber of Secrets), Downton Abbey and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. Our next stop is Durham Cathedral, built in 1093 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site regarded as one of the finest examples of Norman architecture. Late afternoon we'll arrive in York, where we'll enjoy a walking tour of this historic walled city before an included farewell dinner this evening.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 8: Cambridge - London**

Today we make our way to the historic university town of Cambridge! Along with the exquisite architecture, quirky traditions and deep history, there are a significant number of bright sparks who have passed through the city's famous university, including Charles Darwin, David Attenborough and William Wordsworth. We'll do the traditional pastime and go punting along the river before we return to London where our tour concludes this evening.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Free day in London**

Today is all yours. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in London. You can also take one of our optional escorted or private tours and visit sights in or around London.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of London's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 9 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 9 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 17 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****Devon**

Travelodge Exeter

**Oxford**

Best Western Linton Lodge Hotel

**Liverpool**

Hotel Ibis Liverpool Centre Albert Dock

**Cumbria**

Hotel Ibis Carlisle

**York**

Hotel Ibis York Center

# 9 DAYS - TOUR OF GREAT BRITAIN

## England, Scotland and Wales?

### Three top destinations - one top tour!

#### ITINERARY

##### DAY 1: London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford Street. Private airport transfer. Overnight accommodation.

##### DAY 2: Cambridge – Yorkshire

Leaving London behind us. Today, you will fill your lungs with fresh, English countryside air, as you depart the city of London, and head to where the grass is greener. Arriving in Cambridge, your first adventure will have you punting along the river in traditional style, taking in the stunning scenery and epic, historical buildings in the most relaxing way. Simply wonderful! The afternoon sees you continuing your rural journey towards York, a mecca for history buffs and lovers of fine architecture and culture. Your walking tour offers fascinating insights, stories and history of the city. Tonight, you will enjoy dinner in a traditional English pub - plenty of choices on the menu, including English favourites such as fish and chips or bangers and mash (delicious sausages and creamy mashed potatoes).

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

##### DAY 3: Edinburgh

Get ready to experience places of historical battles, religious significance, ancient architecture and royal ruins. Your first stop of the day is the iconic Hadrian's Wall. Built by hand in 122 AD, its creation is extremely significant in the history of Great Britain, and it is one of the most visited cultural landmarks in the UK. Not too far away lies the border town of Jedburgh. Famed for its links to royalty and historical warfare, you will have an opportunity to explore the city and take in the amazing architecture, which speak for populations passed. The Jedburgh Abbey ruins are incredible, and a visit is highly recommended. As you journey through Scotland, relax and enjoy the beautiful landscape drifting past. The capital city is waiting, and your tour leader will introduce you to Edinburgh on an evening driving and orientation walking tour.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

##### DAY 4: Edinburgh - Free day

Today, you are free to explore the city as you wish, and there is so much to see and do. Known as the cultural capital of Scotland, Edinburgh is blessed with stunning grey stone buildings, along with architecture, art galleries, memorials and higher education faculties. Take a step back in time, and wander around the authentic, unchanged cobbled



streets of the Royal Mile, and meander down to the Grass Market, to a row of pubs where public hangings used to 'entertain' the crowds. Edinburgh Castle is well worth the entry fee, and requires a few hours to explore and learn about Scottish history and royalty - there are wonderful views from the top! For those wishing to shop for souvenirs, Princes Street attracts shoppers from all over the world. The city comes alive at night, in the bars and pubs in the city centre, so why not enjoy a pint or a traditional whisky with the friendly locals?

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 5: Scottish Highlands**

Just over halfway through your Great Britain tour, you are now heading north to the Scottish Highlands, where we offer you an optional excursion that could change your life! Embark on a 1 hour cruise of Loch Ness, (home to 'Nessie' the Loch Ness Monster - see if you can spot her and take in the impressive ruins of Urquhart Castle as you drift past on your boat ride. Once back on the road, prepare for boldness and the symbol of the highlands. Rising out of the ground like a waking giant, behold the grandeur of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. Whilst in the region, you will visit Glencoe - a spectacular Glen (Scottish for a deep valley in the Highlands) where the massacre of Glencoe took place in 1692 - one of the most fascinating yet saddest stories encompassing Scotland's history. Your day will wind down with a well-earned whisky tasting at one of Scotland's oldest, licensed whisky distilleries in Fort William, before continuing on to your hotel in the Scottish Highlands. Enjoy your final evening in this amazing country.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 6: Liverpool**

As your heart sinks at the thought of leaving Scotland, be reassured that there are exciting adventures to be had today in England! Your Great Britain tour will take a twist into modern history, as you head across the border, bound for Liverpool - the home of The Beatles and two world-famous premier league football clubs! On the way, you can soak up the last of the Scottish landscape, before reaching the picturesque Lake District for a lunch stop - the views are simply stunning! We then arrive in Liverpool late afternoon, where you will have the evening free to explore. Upon checking in at the hotel, head to one of the many local pubs for dinner. For Beatles fans, there are a myriad of locations that were significant to developing the world-class pop act, which shaped modern music as we know it. Home to Paul, John, George and Ringo, Liverpool inspired such timeless classics including 'Strawberry Fields' and 'Penny Lane'. The Beatles played hundreds of shows at the Cavern Club, the perfect place to enjoy your time in Liverpool.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 7: Stratford-Upon-Avon - Wales**

This morning, we will take a driving tour of Liverpool, where you will be shown the sights, before we venture on to the birthplace of William Shakespeare - Stratford-upon-Avon. An orientation tour will allow you to explore the quaint, historical village, and then you will have some free time to explore on your own. There are numerous Shakespearean attractions and fascinating historical locations to visit. For those who wish to delve into the life of Shakespeare more intimately, we can arrange an optional excursion for you to visit the home where he grew up as a child, where he also lived with his wife when they were newlyweds. Sliding into south Wales, we take a photo stop at Caerphilly Castle, a medieval fortification built in the 13th Century, ranked the second largest castle in the UK. Surrounded by artificial lakes, not only is the architecture a sight to behold, but it was also a ground-breaking design back in its day. Heading onwards to the Welsh capital of Cardiff, you have an evening in which to enjoy the local nightlife on offer.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 8: Bath - London**

This is the last day of your British Tour, and there is no sign of slowing down! The road from Cardiff to London is littered with history, stunning scenery and architectural delights. First stop for the day is Bath - a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring some of the finest architecture in Europe. Join us on a guided walking tour of the town, and learn about the historical significance of the region, including the natural hot springs that supply the Roman baths - visited by over 1 million international tourists every year! Continuing on the last legs of your journey, you have an optional excursion that could have you unravelling one of the worlds' greatest mysteries. Stonehenge - need we say more? You have the opportunity to witness an ancient and awe-inspiring structure, which has baffled scientists, tourists and historians for centuries. As you board your coach for the last time on your Great Britain tour, take this chance to exchange contact details and share photos with new friends and fellow travellers, before you alight at your last stop in London.  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: London**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of London's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.  
Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 15 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).
- 9 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- All taxes and fees
- Services of your tour leader from day two till day eight who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.



## ACCOMMODATION

### LONDON

Ibis Greenwich  
Travelodge  
Royal National  
Ibis Excel

### YORKSHIRE

Ibis Budget Leeds

### EDINBURGH

Ibis Budget Edinburgh Park  
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS  
Hotel Arrochar  
Hotel Espalanade in Dunoon  
Gleddoch House Hotel Langbank  
Royal Marine Hotel Dunoon

### LIVERPOOL

Ibis Liverpool

### CARDIFF

Premier Inn Cardiff North  
Ibis Budget Cardiff Centre  
Ibis Bristol Temple Meads  
Novotel Bristol City Centre

# 15 DAYS - HIGHLIGHTS OF UK & IRELAND

Explore the finest highlights of the ever-popular UK & Ireland starting from London!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Welcome to London

Welcome to one of the most exciting cities in Europe – London! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can hop on a double-decker or do some shopping on Oxford street. Private airport transfer. Overnight accommodation  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Bath – Cardiff

Breakfast at the hotel. Departing from London, we make our way to Stonehenge (optional), the ancient archaeological wonder that has stood for thousands of years in the countryside of south-west England. Ponder the mysteries of this ancient site for yourself and learn about the history of the area. Once we've had a chance to look around, we're off to the beautiful and historic city of Bath, famous of course for the Roman baths built here during the reign of the Empire. Heading into nearby Wales, Caerphilly Castle is our next stop, where you'll be able to snap a few photos of this ancient attraction, built in the 13th century by Gilbert de Clare, a red-headed Norman nobleman. Finally, we arrive in the Welsh capital of Cardiff, where we'll stop for the night. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Liverpool

Prepare for your second day of adventure! After breakfast in Cardiff, we make for Stratford, the hometown of William Shakespeare! A market town with more than 800 years of history, the town still has many buildings that would be familiar to Shakespeare if he was still around today. Then we're off to Liverpool! Liverpool is a famous British port city with a rich history; there's something for everyone here. Football fans will be delighted to be in the home city of Liverpool and Everton football clubs, while music fans will be enthralled to be in the home of The Beatles. Spot the famous sites with our driving tour of the city, and explore the city yourself during your free time this evening. Why not head to Mathew Street, the beating heart of the live music scene and home to the world-famous 'Cavern Club', where The Beatles first made their mark on modern music? Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Dublin

Today, we catch the ferry across the Irish Sea to Dublin! Once we arrive, we'll take a drive tour of the city, and spot a few of the city's more famous highlights. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in this 1000 year old city. From the city's Viking past, its medieval castles and its cathedrals, to its many museums that illustrate some of the city's more



turbulent episodes, Dublin is big enough to keep you entertained, but small enough to get across town in no time at all.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Dublin - Free day

Enjoy a free day in the city of Dublin! One of the city's most famous exports is, of course, Guinness, and today there's the option of visiting the Guinness Storehouse to see how this famous dark beer is made. Alternatively, visit the National Museums of Ireland, take a walk along the South Wall, visit the city's most famous park, St Stephen's Green, see the Irish Museum of Modern Art or try out the many pubs and eateries. Tonight, there's also the option to visit the Merry Ploughboy Music Pub for a taste of traditional Irish music! Definitely not to be missed – check our Optional Excursions for more information.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Killarney

Leaving Dublin behind us, we travel onward to Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland! Founded by Vikings in 914, Waterford has a fascinating history and rich maritime tradition. Following our stop here, we'll travel on to the famous Blarney Castle, where you can kiss the Blarney Stone and hopefully gain the 'gift of the gab.' Built nearly 600 years ago by one of Ireland's most famous chieftains, Blarney Castle is one of Ireland's most famous attractions. After that, it's onward to the pretty town of Killarney in County Kerry, where we'll stop for the night.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 7: Ring of Kerry

Today you have a free day in Killarney. There are incredible trails to hike, amazing golf courses and beautiful churches to visit. Alternatively, join our free optional excursion as we drive the incredible Ring of Kerry. Keep your camera fully

charged and at the ready – it's going to be a day of stunning scenery! The Ring of Kerry is home to breath-taking coastal views, emerald-green pastures and charming villages, including Waterville, Kells & Derrynane, where we'll make comfort stops. Take the opportunity to amble down the high streets, explore the shops and try the culinary treats on offer from the cute cafes, bars and restaurants. We'll also drive through the picturesque town of Cahersiveen, and



stop at Killarney National Park and Moll's Gap, where you'll be blown away by the scenery of this beautiful green valley. Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 8: Galway**

Today's another day for epic Irish scenery! Making our way up the 'Wild Atlantic Way', we'll be stopping in Adare and Limerick on our way to the famous Cliffs of Moher and the town of Galway. Adare is often called Ireland's prettiest village, and with its preserved 19th Century thatch-roofed cottages housing craft shops and fine restaurants, it's not hard

to see why. We'll travel on through the county of Limerick and make our way to the Cliffs of Moher, one of the best-known attractions in all of Ireland. These incredible cliffs rise over 200 metres from the frothing ocean below, and the views on a clear day are absolutely breath-taking. Finally, we'll arrive in Galway, a bright, bohemian city renowned for its oysters, its live music venues, cafes, weekend parties and contemporary vibe. Explore the city for yourself during your free time and experience all the charms that Galway has to offer.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 9: Belfast**

Leaving Galway behind, we journey on to Northern Ireland, stopping first in Derry / Londonderry. Fresh from its makeover following its moment in the limelight as UK City of Culture 2013, Northern Ireland's second city has a lot to offer. Next, we'll stop at the Giant's Causeway, a famous natural oddity made up of around 40 000 interlocking basalt columns. Learn about the myths and legends surrounding the area, and then prepare for the final stop in the Irish leg of our adventure – Belfast! Here, we'll have a driving tour with a local guide, taking time to see some of the city's most famous attractions and learn more about the city's past. Having pulled off quite a transformation in recent years, Belfast is shaking off its reputation that lingered after the times of The Troubles, and the city's skyline is constantly changing as redevelopment continues. Fans of Game of Thrones will be pleased to know that a large portion of the series is filmed here, too!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 10: Highlands**

Today, we make our way to Scotland! Boarding a ferry in Belfast, we'll arrive in Scotland and travel to Stirling, where we'll be able to admire the famous Wallace Monument. Built to commemorate one of William Wallace's most famous victories at The Bridge of Stirling, the monument is a tower standing on the summit of Abbey Craig, a hilltop near Stirling. Then, we're off into the Scottish Highlands! Admire the scenery as we travel to our accommodation.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 11: Edinburgh**

Today, we set off into the Highlands to further explore this famous region of Scotland. We'll be stopping at the famous Loch Ness, reputedly the home of the Loch Ness monster! Go for a cruise on the Loch (optional) and see the ruins of Urquhart Castle. We'll then stop off at a local whisky distillery, where you'll have the chance to taste this most famous Scottish export! Heading out of the Highlands, we'll arrive finally in Edinburgh, and enjoy a walking tour of the Scottish capital. Apart from Holyrood House, the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle, keep in mind that this is the city where JK Rowling famously penned the first Harry Potter novel. Fans might find the city strangely familiar!

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 12: Edinburgh - Free day**

Your time is yours to spend as you like today – revisit some of the highlights from yesterday's walking tour, or strike out on your own and discover the city for yourself. Explore Edinburgh Castle in full, or if the weather allows, take a stroll up to Arthur's Seat for panoramic views of the city below. Tonight we offer a traditional Scottish dinner, complete with the famous traditional haggis! Check our Optional Excursions for more information.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 13: Yorkshire**

Saying goodbye to Scotland, we make for the famous Alnwick Castle, the home of the Duke of Northumberland and the second-largest inhabited castle in England after Windsor Castle. This castle has also featured in many famous films and TV shows, including two Harry Potter films (The Philosopher's Stone and The Chamber of Secrets), Downton Abbey, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (and the more recent Ridley Scott incarnation), The Black Adder, Star Trek: The Next Generation and many more! Visiting the castle is an optional excursion, details of which are available in our Optional Excursions documentation. Next, we travel into Yorkshire, and to the county capital, York. Home to the largest gothic cathedral in northern Europe (York Minster), York is a charming city of winding cobbled streets, lined with little boutiques selling all manner of fascinating things and there are a number of sweet-shops too if you're looking to satisfy that sweet tooth! We'll take you on a walking tour of the city to see its most famous sites, before heading to our accommodation in Yorkshire.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 14: Cambridge – London**

Today we make our way to the historic university town of Cambridge! Along with the exquisite architecture, quirky traditions and deep history, there are a significant number of bright sparks who have passed through the city's famous university: John Milton, Charles Darwin, David Attenborough, Sacha Baron Cohen, Siegfried Sassoon, John Cleese, Nick Drake, Stephen Fry, William Wordsworth, Hugh Laurie, Rachel Weisz and, of course, countless others. We'll do the traditional thing and go punting along the river before we return to London.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 15: Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of London's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.

Breakfast. Private airport transfer.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 14 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 22 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences).

- 14 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- All taxes and fees
- Services of your tour leader from day two till day fourteen who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****LONDON**

Ibis Greenwich  
Travelodge  
Royal National  
Ibis Excel

**CARDIFF**

Premier Inn Cardiff North  
Ibis Budget Cardiff Centre  
Ibis Bristol Temple Meads  
Novotel Bristol City Centre

**LIVERPOOL**

Ibis Liverpool

**DUBLIN**

Travelodge Pheonix Park,  
Dublin

**KILLARNEY**

Killarney Heights Hotel

**GALWAY**

Eyre Square Hotel, Galway  
Travelodge Galway  
Claregalway Hotel, Galway

**DERRY**

Maldron Hotel, Derry  
White Horse, Derry  
Waterfoot Hotel, Derry

**HIGHLANDS**

Hotel Arrochar  
Hotel Espalanade in Dunoon  
Gleddoch House Hotel Langbank  
Royal Marine Hotel Dunoon

**EDINBURGH**

Ibis Budget Edinburgh Park

# 9 DAYS - EXPLORING IRELAND

Explore a 9 Day Ireland Tour starting from Dublin filled with music, monuments and mystical locations!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Welcome to Dublin

Céad míle fáilte! (Or, should we say, a hundred thousand welcomes!) Welcome to Ireland and the start of your tour! After your arrival to the airport your driver will meet you at the arrival lobby and escort you to the car for your private transfer to your hotel. You can spend the rest of your day relaxing and recovering from your jet-lag, or in case you feel energetic enough you can explore this beautiful city on your own.

Overnight accommodation.

### DAY 2: Dublin

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet up with your tour leader and fellow travellers, do a spot of sightseeing or just relax – your time is yours. Big enough to keep one amused, but small enough to cover in a relatively short time, Dublin boasts an extraordinary history, rich heritage and a touch of indulgence. Enjoy! Tonight at the welcome dinner you'll have a proper chance to meet your tour group, and get more information on the days to come.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Belfast

Today, we set off from Dublin on our first day of travel. Your tour leader will give you an introduction to the history of Ireland, and, as we're headed into Northern Ireland it's particularly important to learn about topics like the Rising, the Civil War and the Fight for Independence, along with The Troubles. Although peaceful now, this is an important part of Ireland's history, particularly the north. We'll stop first in the famous city of Belfast, where we'll have an orientation tour. Having redefined itself in recent years, the city's skyline is constantly changing. Whether you're checking out the Victorian architecture, strolling along the vibrant waterfront or exploring Victoria Square (Europe's biggest urban regeneration project), you're in for an eye-opening adventure. After some free time, we head to Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge for a photo stop, and also visit the famous Giant's Causeway - an incredible rock formation consisting of around 40 000 interlocking basalt columns. Legend has it that the causeway was built by an Irish giant named Finn McCool, so that he could challenge his Scottish rival Benandonner to a battle. But when Benandonner appeared over the horizon, Finn McCool was terrified by the size of him, and ran home to his wife, Oonagh, who disguised him as a baby, making him curl up in an enormous cradle. When Benandonner arrived, he saw the enormous 'child' and was terrified to think how big the father must be. He fled back to Scotland, tearing up the causeway as he went. Our last stop for the day is the riverside city of Londonderry / Derry, where we spend the night.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation



### DAY 4: Galway

Heading out from Londonderry / Derry, we make our way to Galway, joining up with the famous Wild Atlantic Way - the longest coastal drive in the world, and probably the most scenic! We'll make a comfort stop, and then will arrive in Galway in the early afternoon. Enjoy some free time in this arty, bohemian city that boasts a vibrant ambience, thanks to its large student population. With students making up a quarter of the population, you'll find plenty of bars and cafes, some of which will feature live music. Check out the remnants of the medieval town walls, or take a stroll down the promenade to Salthill, on Galway Bay, source of the area's delicious well-known oysters.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Killarney

First up today, we have one of the highlights of the tour – the world-famous Cliffs of Moher. Here, we'll have the chance to capture a few spectacular photos of this natural wonder, which rises over 200 meters above the churning sea. We then make our way to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. The present version of Bunratty Castle was erected in the early 1400s, though several constructions preceded it, dating back to the 10th Century. Adjoining the castle is Folk Park, a reconstructed traditional Irish village complete with cottages, weavers, pie-makers, a forge and a working blacksmith. We stop for lunch in Limerick, with its fascinating castle, traditional pubs, art museum and a thriving café culture. Before the last leg of the tour to our hotel in Killarney today, we stop off in Adare for photos, and you'll marvel at what's often called 'Ireland's prettiest village.' Catch a glimpse of the perfectly-preserved thatch cottages, which today are home to craft shops and restaurants. We arrive in Killarney, where you can reflect on the day over dinner with your fellow explorers.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 6: Ring of Kerry**

Keep your camera fully charged and at the ready – it's going to be a day of stunning scenery! The famous Ring of Kerry is our stamping ground today, home to breath-taking coastal views, emerald-green pastures and charming villages – including Cahersiveen and Kenmare, where we'll pass through or make comfort stops. We'll also stop at the village of Sneem on Kenmare Bay - known locally as the knot of Kerry



- where you'll have some time to explore..  
Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 7: Blarney Castle**

Journeying back to Dublin and leaving the Wild Atlantic Way, we stop at Blarney Castle, where you'll have the chance to kiss the famous Blarney Stone and gain the 'gift of the gab'. We'll stop on the way in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, where the atmosphere and feel of medieval Ireland is unmistakable. Arriving back in Dublin, celebrate the last night of your tour with an optional Irish music evening, in-

cluding dinner and a show at the Merry Ploughboy Irish Music Pub, winner of the "Best Music Pub" in Ireland. Located in the Irish countryside, this is an authentic experience, held in a pub run by traditional musicians who specialise in all aspects of Irish music and dance.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 8: Free day in Dublin**

Today is all yours. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights in Dublin.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

**DAY 9: Dublin – Time to say goodbye**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Dublin's sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 8 nights' accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 15 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences – please see Experiences tab for more information).
- 9 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Services of your tour leader, from day two till day eight who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

**ACCOMMODATION****DUBLIN**

Travelodge Pheonix Park, Dublin

**DERRY**

Maldron Hotel, Derry

White Horse, Derry

Waterfoot Hotel, Derry

**GALWAY**

Eyre Square Hotel, Galway

Travelodge Galway

Claregalway Hotel, Galway

**KILLARNEY**

Killarney Heights Hotel

# 9 DAYS - EASTERN EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Straight out of a fairy-tale - see Neuschwanstein Castle on day 2 of your tour!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive to Munich.

Welcome to Munich! The first day of the tour is our arrivals day. Meet your fellow travellers, and, depending on what time you arrive, head into Munich and see the sights ahead of the start of your tour. A city that exhibits both prosperity and a certain amount of comfort and cosiness, Munich's apparent contradictions will delight the avid explorer. Along with modern high-powered industry, designer shopping districts and sleek BMWs, you'll find a wealth of cultural hotspots in Munich. Even with all its smart sophistication, Munich has a certain charm that visitors find irresistible. Tonight, we'll take you to a traditional German beer hall to get a taste of German culture. Prost! Dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 2: Visit Neuschwanstein Castle, Oberammergau & Innsbruck.

Today, we're off to Innsbruck, stopping first at the famous Neuschwanstein Castle. With turrets soaring high above the surrounding woodland, this is a castle that will bring all those familiar fairy tales to mind. We'll take a tour, allowing you to get up close and personal to this outstanding European landmark. Following that, we'll head to Oberammergau for a comfort stop. This town is famous for its passion play, which is re-enacted every 10 years in commemoration of the vow made by the town's citizens in 1634. Next, we'll make our way to Innsbruck in nearby Austria. This is one of the few places in the world that really can lay claim to having something for everyone. It's not everywhere that offers extreme sports (thanks to the close proximity of the soaring Nordkette Alps), fascinating historical heritage (courtesy of the legacy of the Habsburgs), and vibrant modern attractions, too. Once we arrive in the afternoon, you'll have some free time to explore this fascinating Austrian city. Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 3: Visit Salzburg & Vienna.

From Innsbruck, we head for the grandeur of Vienna, stopping on the way for a comfort stop in Salzburg. On arrival in Vienna, we'll take a driving tour of the city - which ranks as one of the world's most liveable cities. Few cities can show off such cultural and historical splendour and maintain a profile as an exciting, modern city, but Vienna does it well. Along with a musical past that includes luminaries like Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, and artworks by masters like Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, Vienna has a buzzing modern culinary scene, cheerful, bustling pubs and bars, and a host of clubs and music venues in which to dance the night away. Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation

### Day 4: Visit Budapest.

Today, we're off to Budapest, the Hungarian capital. Blessed



with natural beauty (it straddles the Danube River) as well as baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture, this is a city to behold. Get a good overview of it all with our Budapest driving tour when you arrive. Starting on the Pest side of the Danube, head across the river and stop at the Fisherman's Bastion for spectacular views of the city and the river below. See the Houses of Parliament and drive along the river admiring the city. This afternoon is yours to enjoy the city as you please.

Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

### Day 5: Visit Bratislava & Prague.

Today, we're off to Prague, stopping on the way in Bratislava for a comfort stop. On arrival in Prague, we'll take a walking tour of this incredible city, which, since freeing itself from communism, has joined other European jewels like Paris, Rome and Amsterdam to take its place as one of Europe's most fascinating destinations. Famous for its art, architecture, cobbled lanes and ancient chapels, this is also home to some of Europe's finest beer. The Astronomical Clock in the Old Town Square is a 'must-see' - the intricate puppetry and show that is performed on the hour draws hundreds of people throughout the day and night. For dinner, experience authentic Czech cuisine at our local restaurant on your first night in Prague.

Breakfast, dinner, overnight accommodation.

### Day 6: Free day in Prague.

The day is yours to treat yourself to the fairy tale magic of Prague - often aptly described as the "Jewel in the Crown" of central Europe, and maybe revisit some of the places you saw on yesterday's walking tour. The majestic Prague Castle, the famous Charles Bridge (you need to also see the views from the bridge at night - simply stunning), the old town and the Jewish Quarter are all worth seeing. There is also a 'Secret Garden' that leads to a man-made grotto - see if you can find it! Prague's dramatic history is reflected in the

beauty of the architecture of churches, opera houses, concert halls and parks. There are numerous beer halls in which to sample a local brew, and for those who wish to put your stamp on the city, why not visit legendary Lennon wall - a tribute to John Lennon and words of peace, which is added to on a daily basis by the thousands of visitors to the city. Did we mention 'fairy tale' city earlier? Maybe it is worth noting that Prague is the home of the "green fairy", which is



better known as absinthe.  
Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

#### Day 7: Visit Nuremberg & Munich.

On our way back to Munich, we'll stop at Nuremberg, Bavaria's second-largest city. Famous for its dark beer and frenetic energy, you'll have a chance to look around before we make our way to Dachau Concentration Camp. In operation from 1933 to 1945, Dachau was a Nazi concentration camp that was responsible for the imprisonment of around 200 000 people. We'll gain more of an understanding of this dark side of German history, and then finally make our way back to Munich. Tonight is your last night on tour, so be

sure to make the most of it!  
Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

#### Day 8: Free day in Munich.

Spend your day shopping around Marienhilf street or one of the major department stores. If you are after bargains head to Ingolstadt Village Outlet mall with more than 110 brand stores with savings of up to 60% off the regular prices. Alternatively you can also take one of our optional tours and spend your day exploring Munich and its vicinity.  
Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

#### Day 9: Depart from Munich.

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer to Munich airport for your flight back home. In case your departure time is in the afternoon or evening you can continue shopping or take one of our half day optional tours before heading to the airport.  
Breakfast. Airport transfer.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 night's accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 8 breakfasts and 3 dinners.
- 11 Included Experiences, (including guided walks, orientation walks, driving tours of certain regions).
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels.
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day seven who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### MUNICH

Azimut City Ost  
B&B Munich City West

##### INNSBRUCKK

Hotel Sailor  
Alphotel  
Hotel Alpinpark

##### VIENNA

Ibis Wien Messe  
Ibis Budget Wien  
Renator Hotel  
Senator Hotel  
Ibis Budget Wien St Marx

##### BUDAPEST

Ibis Budapest City

##### PRAGUE

Ibis Mala Strana  
Charles Central Hotel  
Hotel Adeba  
Hotel Duo  
Hotel Krystal

# 12 DAYS - BEST OF EAST EUROPE

## Ljubljana, the romantic medieval capital of Slovenia

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive to Munich

Welcome to Munich! The first day of the tour is our arrivals day. Meet your fellow travellers, and depending on what time you arrive, head into Munich and see the sights on an orientation tour. A city that exhibits both prosperity and a certain amount of comfort and cosiness, Munich's apparent contradictions will delight the avid explorer. Along with modern high-powered industry, designer shopping districts and sleek BMWs, you'll find a wealth of cultural hotspots in Munich. Even with all its smart sophistication, Munich has a certain charm that visitors find irresistible. Tonight, we'll take you to a traditional German beer hall to get a taste of German culture. Prost!

Airport transfer, dinner.

#### Day 2: Munich - Prague

On our way to Prague, we take a comfort stop in Nuremberg. Bavaria's second-largest city, you'll find incredible architecture here, painstakingly restored using original stone after the bombings of the Second World War. Famous for its art, architecture, cobbled lanes and ancient chapels, this is also home to some of Europe's finest beer. The Astronomical Clock in the Old Town Square is a 'must see' - the intricate puppetry and show performed on the hour draws hundreds of people throughout the day and night. For dinner, experience authentic Czech cuisine at a local restaurant on your first night in Prague.

Breakfast, dinner

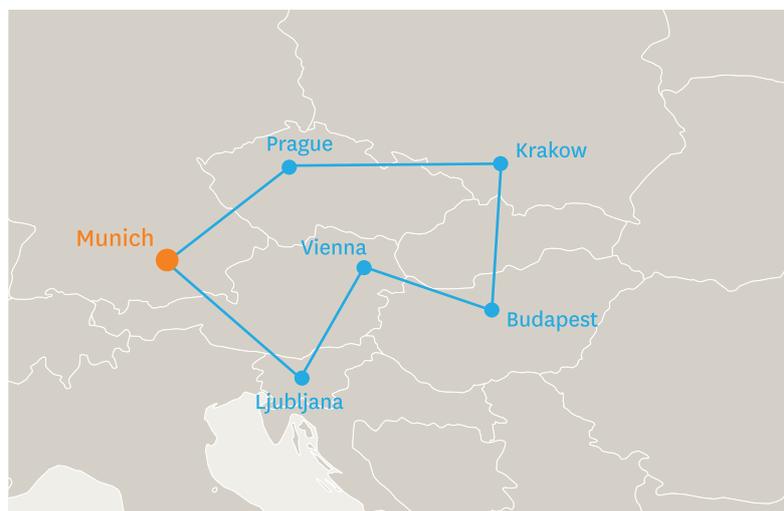
#### Day 3: Free day - Prague

The day is yours to treat yourself to the fairy tale magic of Prague and maybe revisit some of the places you saw yesterday. See the majestic Prague Castle, the famous Charles Bridge, the 'Old Town' and the Jewish Quarter. There is also a 'Secret Garden', which leads to a man-made grotto - see if you can find it! Prague's dramatic history is reflected in the beauty of the architecture of churches, opera houses, concert halls and parks. There are numerous beer halls in which to sample a local brew, and for those who wish to put your stamp on the city, visit the Lennon wall - a tribute to John Lennon and words of peace, which is added to on a daily basis by the thousands of visitors to the city. It is also worth noting that Prague is the home of absinthe. Some say that Vincent Van Gogh's love affair with this drink is considered to be the most famed in history and a possible cause of his madness.

Breakfast

#### Day 4: Prague - Krakow

Leaving Prague behind us, we continue on to Krakow. The royal capital of Poland for centuries, Krakow today is home



to some of Europe's most impressive Gothic and Renaissance architecture - and over 2.3 million artworks to complement its historic buildings and monuments. But before taking a walking tour of this treasure-trove of a city, we take a look at a darker time in Krakow's history, with a tour of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Originally constructed to hold Polish political prisoners in 1940, it went on to become a major site of the Nazi extermination of Jews transported to the camp from all over German occupied Europe. At least 1.1 million prisoners died at Auschwitz, which is now a museum that gives a horrific reminder of the holocaust.

#### Day 5: Free day - Krakow

The day is yours to explore the city further if you wish. The renaissance cloth hall in the main market square, the Old Town, Kazimierz and the Wawel Castle, or maybe sample the local cuisine such as Zurek, a very traditional Polish soup with a distinctive sour taste that is dished up in a special hollowed out loaf of bread. There is also the option of taking an optional excursion to the Krakow Salt Mine. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the mine dates back to the Middle Ages and is a fascinating look at the area's history. Descending underground, you'll walk through 2km of tunnels, chapels, reliefs and freestanding sculptures carved from salt rock walls; along with underground lakes and archaeological displays. Alternatively, explore Krakow even further.

Breakfast

#### Day 6: Krakow - Budapest

On our way to Budapest, we stop briefly in Banska Bystrica in Slovakia, a picturesque town with beautiful buildings dating back to the late Middle Ages. Then we're off to Budapest, the Hungarian capital. Blessed with natural beauty (it straddles the Danube River) as well as baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture, this is a city to behold. Get a good overview of it all with our Budapest driving tour when you arrive. Starting on the Pest side of the Danube,

head across the river and stop at the Fisherman's Bastion for spectacular views of the city and the river below. See the Houses of Parliament and drive along the river admiring the city – take note of spots to revisit tomorrow on your free day. Tonight's meal is at a local restaurant, so savour the chance to try some of the local cuisine!

Breakfast, dinner



#### Day 7: Free day - Budapest

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details, this is your chance to get up close and personal with Budapest. Look out for remnants of the conflicts of WWII and the uprising of 1956, try Hungarian cuisine (so much more to it than just goulash), sample world-renowned wines, and soak your weary rambler's bones in one of the city's bath-houses – something Budapest has been known for since the Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources. Some of the most popular ones are Széchenyi Medicinal Bath.

Breakfast

#### Day 8: Vienna

We leave Budapest and head for the grandeur of Vienna, stopping for a comfort stop in Bratislava. You'll have time to explore for a while, taking in the sights and scenery. On arrival in Vienna, we'll take a driving tour. Few cities can show off such cultural and historical splendour and maintain a profile as an exciting, modern city, but Vienna does it well. Along with a musical past that includes luminaries like Mozart and Beethoven, Vienna has a buzzing modern culinary scene, cheerful, bustling pubs and bars, and a host of clubs and music venues in which to dance the night away. After the driving tour we'll enjoy an included dinner, before some free time to explore further.

Breakfast

#### Day 9: Ljubljana

Leaving Vienna behind, we head for the grandeur of Ljubljana, taking a comfort stop in the beautiful city of Graz. On arrival in Ljubljana, we'll have a walking tour of this little gem of a city. Despite its small size, you're sure to be entranced by the beauty of this city, which features a wealth of cultures, activities and sights. Ljubljana Castle overlooks the city, and dates back to the 16th Century. Tonight after dinner, explore a little more and take advantage of the fact that pretty much everything is just a stroll away!

Breakfast, dinner

#### Day 10: Munich

Leaving Ljubljana behind, we stop off in picture-perfect Salzburg. Featuring gorgeous architecture, a formidable cliff-top fortress and imposing cliffs in the distance, you could be forgiven for thinking that you were in a fairy-tale. This was also Mozart's home-town – see if a little of the genius rubs off! Shortly afterwards we press on for Munich. The evening is free for you to spend as you wish. Relax in your hotel, go for dinner in a local restaurant, or even visit another beer hall with your new-found friends on the tour as a reminder of your first day.

Breakfast

#### Day 11: Munich

Spend your day shopping around Mariahilf street or one of the major department stores. If you are after bargains head to Ingolstadt Village Outlet mall with more than 110 brand stores with savings of up to 60% off the regular prices. Alternatively you can also take one of our optional tours and spend your day exploring Munich and its vicinity.

Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

#### Day 12: Free day in Munich.

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer to Munich airport for your flight back home. In case your departure time is in the afternoon or evening you can continue shopping or take one of our half day optional tours before heading to the airport.

Breakfast. Private transport to the airport.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 11 night's accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 11 breakfasts and 5 dinners.

- 10 Included Experiences, (including guided walks, orientation walks, driving tours of certain regions).
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels.
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Services of your tour leader from day one till day ten who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

## ACCOMMODATION

### MUNICH

A&O Munich Laim  
Hotel Dolomit  
Azimut City Ost

### PRAGUE

Ibis Mala Strana  
Charles Central Hotel  
Hotel Adeba  
Hotel Duo  
Hotel Krystal  
KRAKOW  
Hotel Polonia

### BUDAPEST

Ibis Budapest City

### LJUBLJANA

Hotel Park  
M Hotel  
City hotel

### VIENNA

Ibis Wien Messe  
Ibis Budget Wien  
Renator Hotel  
Senator Hotel  
Ibis Budget Wien St Marx



# 15 DAYS - BEST OF CROATIA AND THE EAST EUROPE

## The extraordinary landscapes of Plitvice National Park, Croatia

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Munich

The first day of the tour is our arrivals day. Meet your fellow travellers, and depending on what time you arrive, head into Munich and see the sights ahead of the start of your tour. A city that exhibits both prosperity and a certain amount of comfort and cosiness, Munich's apparent contradictions will delight the avid explorer. Along with modern high-powered industry, designer shopping districts and sleek BMWs, you'll find a wealth of cultural hotspots in Munich. Even with all its smart sophistication, Munich has a certain charm that visitors find irresistible. Tonight, meet your fellow explorers and get to know them over a stein as we take you to a traditional German beer hall for dinner and to get a taste of German culture. Prost!

Private airport transfer. Dinner. Overnight accommodation.

#### Day 2: Munich - Ljubljana

Heading for the Slovenian capital, we stop at Salzburg on the way for a comfort stop. Featuring gorgeous architecture, a formidable cliff-top fortress and imposing cliffs in the distance, you could be forgiven for thinking that you were in a fairy tale. This was also Mozart's home-town - see if a little of the genius rubs off! We also stop at Lake Bled for a photo stop. The lake is situated in the Julian Alps and surrounds Bled Island in the middle of the lake, and is overlooked by the medieval Bled Castle on the north shore. On arrival in Ljubljana, we'll have a walking tour of this little gem of a city. Despite its small size, you're sure to be entranced by the beauty of this city, which features a wealth of cultures, activities and sights. Ljubljana Castle overlooks the city, and dates back to the 16th Century.

Breakfast, Dinner

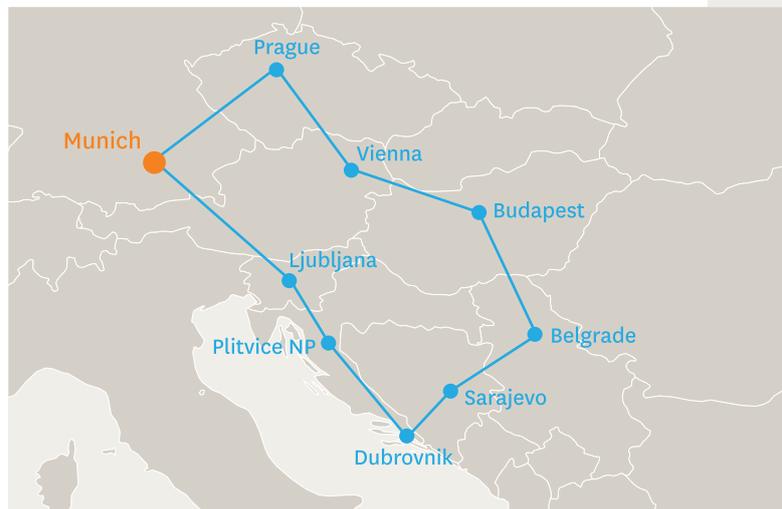
#### Day 3: Plitvice NP

Today, you will be treated to some of the most picturesque natural landscapes in the whole of Europe as we're off to Croatia, visiting the world-famous Plitvice Lakes National Park. Stroll along the boardwalks and marvel at the incredible natural scenery of Croatia's largest national park. Filled with waterfalls, lush vegetation and countless lakes, this is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour, so keep your cameras handy! Once we've got an eyeful, and a full camera-load of shots, we'll head to our hotel in a beach resort near Split, for an included dinner and relaxing evening.

Breakfast

#### Day 4: Dubrovnik

As we make our way to Dubrovnik we'll stop off for a visit to Split, where you'll have time to stroll around this historic town, including the sprawling Diocletian's Palace complex. Once we reach Dubrovnik, your tour leader will take you on an orientation tour of the old town. You will be acquainted



with this stunning walled city, with a maritime history dating back to the Middle Ages. The city is a tapestry of spectacular architecture - including churches, monasteries, fountains and museums. Learn about the city's history, stroll the marble streets, take a walk along the ancient city walls or try one of the many charming restaurants. You have plenty of time to explore, so don't rush - you have a full free day tomorrow.

Breakfast

#### Day 5: Dubrovnik-(free day)

Take the time to explore the city further - with most of the

main attractions located within the city walls in the 'old town', it is very easy to plan your day and navigate the streets. Want the best views of the 'old town' and islands? Catch the cable car to the top of Mount Srdj and enjoy! It is highly recommended for a scenic sunset photo or two. For those who really want to explore further afield, you can choose our optional excursion to Montenegro! Take a full day to experience one of Europe's lesser-visited gems. Discover the natural beauty and rich history as we drive through charming countryside to the UNESCO Heritage listed town of Kotor. The old port of Kotor is surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period, and is a picturesque Mediterranean landscape. This day trip also includes photo stops at Verige and Perast, and a stop at the picturesque coastal town of Budva.

Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 6: Dubrovnik - Sarajevo**

Leaving Dubrovnik behind, we travel on to Sarajevo, stopping on the way in the enchanting Balkan town of Mostar. Mostar is an enchanting and historical place, which offers a splattering of numerous religious buildings and churches, and a vast collection of Roman, Greek, Croatian and Ottoman influences. Sarajevo is the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has returned from the brink of destruction in the 90s, becoming famed for its East-meets-West atmosphere. Learn all about the city's troubled past in a walking tour of this fascinating city.

Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 7: Sarajevo - Belgrade**

Saying goodbye to Sarajevo, we make our way to the Serbian capital of Belgrade. We will enjoy a tour of the city with a local guide, who will introduce us to the city's highlights, including Republic Square, Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan park and Belgrade fortress. A fascinating place, Belgrade radiates gritty exuberance in its many architectural contrasts with socialist blocks set amongst more grandiose buildings. After the walking tour we'll enjoy an included dinner, before some free time to explore the city.

Breakfast

#### **Day 8: Belgrade - Budapest**

We travel onward to Budapest. Blessed with natural beauty (it straddles the Danube River) as well as baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture, this is a city to behold. Get a good overview of it all with our Budapest driving tour on arrival. Starting on the Pest side of the Danube, head across the river and stop at the Fisherman's Bastion for spectacular views of the city and the river below. See the Houses of Parliament and drive along the river admiring the city – take note of spots to revisit tomorrow on your free day.

Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 9: Budapest (free day)**

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details, this is your chance to get up close and personal with Budapest. Look out for remnants of the conflicts of WWII and the uprising of 1956, try Hungarian cuisine (so much more to it than just goulash), sample world-renowned wines, and soak your weary rambler's bones in one of the city's bath-houses – something Budapest has been known

for since the Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources. Then, maybe catch the sunset with an evening stroll along the Danube. Breakfast

#### **Day 10: Budapest - Vienna**

Leaving Budapest behind, we head for the grandeur of Vienna, stopping for a comfort stop in Bratislava (Slovakia). On arrival in Vienna we'll take a driving tour of the city – which ranks as one of the world's most liveable cities. Few cities



can show off such cultural and historical splendour and maintain a profile as an exciting, modern city, but Vienna does it well. Along with a musical past that includes luminaries like Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, and artworks by masters like Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, Vienna has a buzzing modern culinary scene, cheerful, bustling pubs and bars, and a host of clubs and music venues in which to dance the night away.

Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 11: Vienna - Prague**

On the way to Prague today, we will be visiting Mauthausen concentration camp, where we'll learn about a darker chapter in Europe's history. A labour camp during the Second

World War, this was where hundreds of thousands of political prisoners lost their lives. We'll also take a comfort stop in Český Krumlov. Blessed with a spectacular castle and a wealth of Renaissance and Baroque architecture, Český Krumlov is often thought of as a sort of mini-Prague. On arrival in Prague, we'll take a walking tour of this incredible city, which since freeing itself from communism has joined other European jewels like Paris, Rome and Amsterdam to take its place as one of Europe's most fascinating destinations. Famous for its art, architecture, cobbled lanes and ancient chapels, this is also home to some of Europe's finest beer. Your local tour guide will proudly escort you through the historic streets, pointing out the features of the 'Old Town', Primatial Palace, Slovak National Theatre and the Main Square. For dinner, experience authentic Czech cuisine at our local restaurant on your first night in Prague.  
Breakfast, Dinner

#### Day 12: Prague (free day)

Today, take the time to explore, perhaps revisiting some of the sights you saw on your walking tour. Sample the local cuisine (including the much-lauded and hugely varied beers), visit art galleries, admire the weird and witty sculpture that adorns the city's public spaces, and marvel at the soaring gothic and baroque architecture. Highlights of the day might include the majestic Prague Castle, the famous Charles Bridge, the 'Old Town' and the Jewish Quarter. The Astronomical Clock in the Old Town Square is a 'must see' - the intricate puppetry and show performed on the hour draws hundreds of people throughout the day and night. For those who wish to put your stamp on the city, visit legendary Lennon wall - a tribute to John Lennon and words of peace, which is added to on a daily basis by the thousands of visitors to the city.  
Breakfast

#### Day 13: Prague - Munich

On our way back to Munich, we take a comfort stop in Nuremberg. Bavaria's second-largest city, you'll find incredible architecture here, painstakingly restored using original stone after the bombings of the Second World War. Your last night of the tour sees you back in Munich for you to enjoy as you see fit. Relax in your hotel, get together with your new-found friends from the tour for a farewell dinner, or maybe revisit one of the beer halls that welcomed you so warmly at the beginning of your adventure.  
Breakfast

#### Day 14: Free day in Munich

Spend your day shopping around Mariahilf street or one of the major department stores. If you are after bargains head to Ingolstadt Village Outlet mall with more than 110 brand stores with savings of up to 60% off the regular prices. Alternatively you can also take one of our optional tours and spend your day exploring Munich and its vicinity.  
Breakfast, overnight accommodation.

#### Day 15: Aufwiedersehen.

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer to Munich airport for your flight back home. In case your departure time is in the afternoon or evening you can continue shopping or take one of our half day optional tours before heading to the airport.  
Breakfast. Private transfer to the airport.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 14 night's accommodation in twin rooms. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 14 Breakfasts, 7 dinners.
- 11 Included Experiences, (including guided walks, orientation walks, driving tours of certain regions.)
- Free Wi-Fi in hotels
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.
- Services of your tour leader from day 1 till day 13 who will be on hand with advice and tips and ensure that you get the most from your trip.
- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days and arrival and departure days).
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime trip.

## ACCOMMODATION

### MUNICH

Hotel Dolomit, Munich  
B&B Munich City West, Munich

### LJUBLJANA

Hotel Park  
M Hotel  
City Hotel

### SPLIT

Hotel Dujam, Split

### DUBROVNIK

Hotel Adriatic, Dubrovnik

### SARAJEVO

Hotel Grand

### BELGRADE

Hotel Park Belgrade

### BUDAPEST

Ibis Budapest City

### VIENNA

Ibis Wien Messe  
Ibis Budget Wien  
Renator Hotel  
Senator Hotel  
Ibis Budget Wien St Marx

### PRAGUE

Ibis Mala Strana  
Charles Central Hotel  
Hotel Adeva  
Hotel Duo  
Hotel Krystal

# 17 DAYS – EXPLORING BALKAN

Experience the very best of the Balkans! Explore the sun-soaked Adriatic coast, the rejuvenated cities of Tirana, Mostar and Belgrade, and the historic sights of ancient Greece in one exciting tour!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrive in Athens

Welcome to Athens! If you arrive early enough, head into the city to see for yourself all the treasures this ancient city has to offer. Meet up with your tour leader at our hotel in the afternoon, and then enjoy an orientation tour of Greece's capital. Tonight, you'll meet the rest of the tour group at our included welcome dinner.

Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 2: Delphi - Meteora - Kalambaka

Today we'll head north through the Greek mainland, stopping off on the way in Delphi. In antiquity, Delphi was considered the "omphalos" (navel) of the earth, and the place where people from around the world would visit in order to receive an "oracle" from "Pythia". We will admire the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians and we will also visit the museum of Delphi. This afternoon we'll arrive in Meteora. The dramatic 'columns of the sky' were settled on by monks from the 11th century, and by the 1400s there were 24 in total. We'll visit St. Stephen's Monastery, which was founded in 1400 by St. Antoninus Cantacuzene and is now a nunnery. This evening we'll stay in the nearby town of Kalambaka.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 3: Kalambaka - Ohrid

This morning we'll travel on into Macedonia and the undiscovered jewel of Ohrid. A UNESCO World Heritage Site on the shores of Lake Ohrid, this city is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe, and is notable for once having had 365 churches, one for each day of the year. We'll explore the Old Town on a guided tour, where you'll see the famous sights, including the Church of St. John at Kaneo, which is situated on a cliff overlooking Lake Ohrid. To finish off the day we'll enjoy an included dinner this evening.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 4: Ohrid - Tirana

This morning we'll leave Macedonia for its Balkan neighbour Albania, driving onto the capital city, Tirana. In a story typical of many cities in this part of Europe, Tirana has undergone a remarkable transformation, shaking off communism to become a vibrant, fun city. You'll be introduced to the city on a walking tour, from the buildings painted in bright colours, to the architecture influenced by the Ottomans, Italians and of course communism. This evening, we will stay at a resort, where dinner will be included.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 5: Budva - Kotor - Dubrovnik

Heading north, we leave Albania behind and travel through Montenegro. Our first stop is at the picturesque coastal town of Budva, known for its well preserved medieval



walled city, which you will have some free time to explore. We then make a comfort stop at the UNESCO World Heritage listed town of Kotor. The old port of Kotor is surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period, and is a picturesque Mediterranean landscape. It is then time to make our way to the walled city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, where your tour leader will take you on a walking guided tour of the old town to see the Franciscan Monastery, Dominican Monastery, Cathedral, Onofrio fountain, Orlando's column, Sponza Palace, Rector's Palace, Stradun and the City Walls.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

### DAY 6: Dubrovnik - Free day

You have a full free day to explore Dubrovnik's incredible history! Want the best views of the 'old town' and islands? Catch the cable car to the top of Mount Srdj and enjoy! It is highly recommended for a scenic sunset photo or two. Visit one of the city's many museums; the Maritime Museum is one of the most popular, or maybe just browse the shops, including the traditional jewellery shops where you can find unique handmade silver or gold jewellery.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 7: Mostar - Northern Croatia**

Today you will travel to another country, Bosnia-Herzegovina and head to the town of Mostar. Mostar is an enchanting and historical town, and you will have some free time to explore the numerous religious buildings, and see the the Roman and Ottoman influences. After your time in Mostar, the coach will travel back into Croatia for an overnight stay.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 8: Plitvice Lakes - Ljubljana**

Your European tour continues today with a mix of sublime scenery and a stunning Slovenian capital. Today you will be treated to some of the most picturesque natural landscapes in the whole of Europe. The Plitvice Lakes National Park is known internationally for its cascading lakes, waterfalls and dynamic landscape. We will take you into the reserve, so you can stroll along the boardwalks and marvel at the incredible natural scenery of Croatia's largest national park. This is one of the most beautiful stops on the tour and is home to numerous rare animals, so make sure you have plenty of space in your cameras! After your brush with nature, it's off to the pint-sized city of Ljubljana in Slovenia. A local guide will escort you on a walking tour of this fairytale city, pointing out the numerous bridges and brilliantly preserved baroque, gothic and medieval architecture. This evening you will have the option of joining the Slovenian evening optional excursion, a fun night of live music, singing and dancing with a three-course meal..

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 9: Ljubljana - Budapest**

Today we'll cross into Hungary and head for the capital, Budapest a city cited as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Straddling the historic Danube River, Budapest is well preserved and boasts numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites - its natural geo-thermal springs are a highlight. Enjoy a driving tour of the city, and then use your free time this evening to explore, or join our optional excursion to the Széchenyi Medicinal Bath, one of the most famous icons of the city and Europe's largest medicinal bath.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 10: Budapest - Free day**

With traces of the past evident in the interesting and unusual details, this is your chance to get up close and personal with Budapest. Look out for remnants of the conflicts of WWII and the uprising of 1956, try Hungarian cuisine (so much more to it than just goulash), sample world-renowned wines, and soak your weary rambler's bones in one of the city's bath-houses – something Budapest has been known for since the Roman times, with some 123 thermal and 400 mineral springs from 14 different sources. Then, maybe catch the sunset with an evening stroll along the Danube.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation



#### **DAY 11: Budapest - Belgrade**

Saying goodbye to Budapest, we make our way to the Serbian capital of Belgrade. On arrival in Belgrade we'll enjoy a tour of Serbia's capital city with a local guide, who will introduce us to the city's highlights, including Republic Square, Bohemian Quarter (Skadarlija), Kalemegdan park and Belgrade fortress.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 12: Nis - Sofia**

Our first destination today is a stop off in Nis, a historic city in south-eastern Serbia that was ruled by the Turks from the 14th-19th centuries. Included in your tour package is a visit to the Tower of Skulls, one of the most prominent reminders of its Ottoman past. We'll then make our way to Sofia, where we'll enjoy a driving and walking tour of Bulgaria's capital city to introduce you to the main sights and help you plan for your free day tomorrow.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 13: Sofia - Free day**

Enjoy a free day to explore Sofia. A young and city, the capital combines a pleasing east-meets-west atmosphere against a backdrop of contrasting communist and contemporary architecture. There's a partially exposed 1,800-year-

old Roman city to discover, plenty of relaxing green spaces, and a variety of churches and mosques to explore. Alternatively, the hiking trails of Mt Vitosha are a short bus ride away.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 14: Sofia - Thessaloniki**

Today we head back to Greece, arriving in the northern port city Thessaloniki in the afternoon. Its compact size makes it a delightfully walkable city, which you'll discover for yourself on an orientation tour of the historic centre. The tour will finish on the waterfront close to the famous White Tower, where you will find plenty of restaurants and bars to enjoy the evening.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 15: Thessaloniki - Athens**

Today we'll head south through the Greek countryside back to Athens. On our way we'll stop off in Kamena Vourla, a small town on the south coast of the Malian Gulf, and a beautiful spot to grab lunch. On arrival in Athens we'll check into our hotel before enjoying a farewell dinner on the last night of the tour.

Breakfast. Dinner. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 16: Free day in Athens**

Today you will have a free day in Athens. You can visit museum or galleries, spend your day shopping or exploring the most famous sights.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **DAY 17: End of tour**

After breakfast get ready for your private transfer which will take you to the airport. In case your flight is leaving later in the afternoon or in the evening you could take in more of Athens sights, do some last minute shopping or even join one of our half day optional tours.

Breakfast. Overnight accommodation

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 16 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private ensuite facilities. Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement to ensure a private room.
- 16 breakfasts, 8 dinners
- Return private airport transfer on the first and the last day.

- All taxes and fees
- Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)
- Modern air conditioned coach with reclining seats, TV for showing DVDs, and toilet.
- 18 Experiences (including guided walking tours, orientation walks, driving tours of cities plus other exciting experiences)
- A complimentary memorable gift of your once in a lifetime.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

##### **Athens**

Oscar Hotel

##### **Meteora**

Hotel Orfeas Kalabaka

##### **Ohrid**

Hotel Tino Ohrid

##### **Tirana**

Te Stela Resort

##### **Dubrovnik**

Hotel Adriatic

##### **Starigrad**

Hotel Vicko

##### **Ljubljana**

Hotel Park

##### **Budapest**

Ibis Budapest City

##### **Belgrade**

Hotel Park

##### **Sofia**

Park inn by Radisson Sofia

##### **Thessaloniki**

City Hotel Thessaloniki

##### **Athens**

Oscar Hotel



# European guaranteed tours

Join us on our round-trip coach tours of Europe! Our Europe tours, range in length from 7 to 26 days. We've got the best of Europe covered! Starting and ending in London, Amsterdam, Paris, Rome or Munich or Venice or Vienna, you're sure to find a Europe coach tour here to suit your time-frame and satisfy your appetite for travel. We're using twin-share 3\* hotel accommodation (or similar). Remember, all our tours are GUARANTEED to depart (so no need to worry about it being cancelled at the last minute), and you can secure your tour with just a 10 % deposit! Full payment is due 35 days before departure.

We are proud in offering the most competitive prices in the market. However, as seats are sold out, prices go up – so book early to ensure you are getting the best deal!

Our tour leaders offer historical and cultural context for each of the destinations we visit, and along with our walking tours, you'll get superb insight into the fascinating history of Europe's main cities. Try local cuisine, interact with the locals, take part in a range of included and optional activities, and have the holiday of a lifetime!

## OUR ACCOMMODATION

On all the tours accommodation is provided in twin accommodation. Singles travellers will be accommodated in same-gender twin rooms. Two travellers booking together will be accommodated in a twin room. Three travellers booking together will be accommodated in one twin room, the third person will be accommodated in a same gender twin share room. We will use astute discretion at allocating the third person to a room share; unless we are otherwise advised in writing as to who will be sharing with whom. Triple rooms can be requested, in writing, but cannot be guaranteed in every location in which event the above situation applies. In certain locations, particularly in Austria and Switzerland, a twin is commonly accepted as referring to two separate mattresses and duvets contained in one large frame. Most hotels have rooms that will take an extra bed if required. These extra beds may be bunk beds, fold-away beds or sofa beds. Where an extra bed is added this may limit the space available. Rooms with extra beds are still bookable for two person occupancy although, in this case, the hotelier may allocate a standard-sized twin bedded room without extra beds. Single rooms do not always match up either in size or facilities to twin bedded rooms. Please note that in some properties, lifts may not directly service all floors and access to and from these floors may be by stairway only. All our Europe hotels now feature free wi-fi, so you can stay connected while you're on the road.

## OUR STAFF

Our staff have been carefully chosen, and undergo comprehensive training. Tour leaders and drivers are authorized to have well deserved rest during tour; these are the 'free days' as part of the tour itinerary. Although the staff are on a rest day, they are on call for any emergencies.

## FOOD

Meals are included as stipulated in the tour itinerary, check your specific tour itinerary for details of which meals are included. Vegetarians or those with special dietary needs can be catered for, so please inform us at the time of booking, as well as your tour leader at the start of the tour. Non-included meals are at your own expense. This allows you the opportunity to try the local cuisine. The food is delicious and varied with restaurants providing an important insight into local ways of life. There is always an excellent range of restaurants to choose from. You will also need to purchase drinks and snacks for long bus or coach journeys as there may not be the opportunity once on board. Please be aware that in many parts of the world vegetarian meals are classified as meals without meat or fish, and may not be what you are used to.

## TOUR PRICES

Meals are included as stipulated in the tour itinerary, check your specific tour itinerary for details of which meals are included. Vegetarians or those with special dietary needs can be catered for, so please inform us at the time of booking, as well as your tour leader at the start of the tour. Non-included meals are at your own expense. This allows you the opportunity to try the local cuisine. The food is delicious and varied with restaurants providing an important insight into local ways of life. There is always an excellent range of restaurants to choose from. You will also need to purchase drinks and snacks for long bus or coach journeys as there may not be the opportunity once on board. Please be aware that in many parts of the world vegetarian meals are classified as meals without meat or fish, and may not be what you are used to.

## CLIENTS CANCELLATION POLICY

The client may cancel the booking at any time provided that the cancellation is communicated to Happy Tours in writing. Written notification is essential even if verbal notification of an intention to cancel has been given. Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Happy Tours. The date used for calculating cancellation charges will be as follows: 35 days or more: Full deposit is forfeited; 19-34 days: 50% of total cost is forfeited; 18 days or less: 100% of total cost is forfeited

## ABOUT US

Happy Tours is an European tour operator, member of ETOA (European Tour Operators Association) and an associated member of USTOA, PATA and JATA, fully licensed and insured. We're running these tours by ourselves or in conjunction with our partner, Expat Explore.



# HAPPY TOURS

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