

# 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.

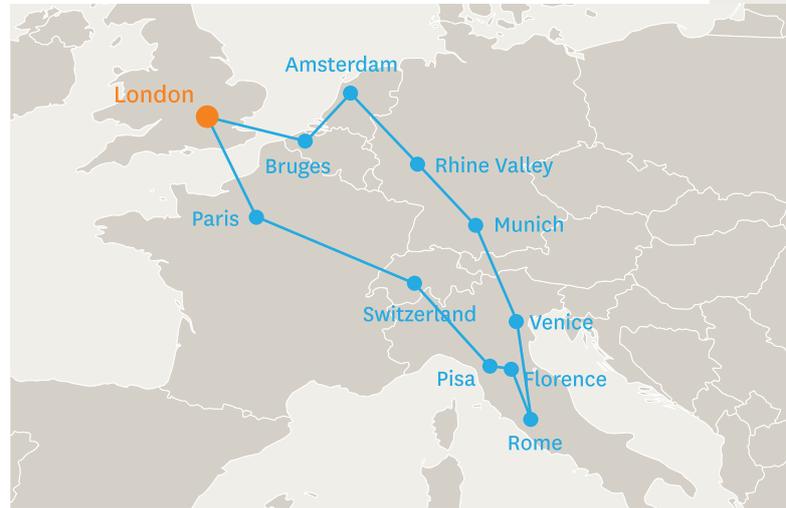
### Day 3: A free day in Paris.

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

