Grand Europe!

25 Nights – 26 Days

Summer 2013

FRANCE- SWITZERLAND-ITALY-VATICAN CITY-SLOVENIA-AUSTRIA-SLOVAKIA-CZECH REPUBLIC-NETHERLANDS-LIECHTENSTEIN & LUXEMBOURG-GERMANY

ITINERARY MAP



GRAND EUROPE IN PICTURES































Tour Highlights:

- Bruges: Visit the ancient medieval city.
- Amsterdam: Guided walking tour of the Red Light District. You can also see Amsterdam's many canals, the Anne Frank House, Dam Square and the van Gogh Museum.
- **Berlin:** Enjoy a local guided tour including the Brandenburg Gate and the remains of the Berlin Wall.
- **Dresden:** Explore the sights off this former Eastern German city, restored after its destruction in the Second World War.
- **Prague:** Local guided tour where we see the Old Town Square, Charles Bridge and St Nicholas' Church.
- **Bratislava:** We have a local guided city tour. See the Old Town Hall, Primatial Palace & St Martin's Cathedral.
- Vienna: Enjoy a local guided city tour of Vienna; see Hofburg's Palace & St Stephan's Cathedral.
- **Ljubljana:** Local guided city tour of the Baroque town.
- **Venice:** Local guided tour seeing the Rialto Bridge, St Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs and the Doges' Palace. A gondola ride down Venice's famous canals. The Murano Island to see famous glass-blowing or to the Lido Island to watch traditional lace making.
- Rome: Local guided walking tour of the city, where you can see the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon.
- Florence: Local guided walking tour of Florence. See the Duomo, Piazza della Signoria with Michelangelo's David, Ponte Vecchio and Santa Croce Basilica.
- Pisa: Photo opportunity to see the leaning tower.
- French Riviera: Shop in the markets and visit the ancient town on your free day. Relax on the beaches of Nice or Cannes. We also visit the famous French perfumery, Fragonard's.
- Monaco: On your free day in the French Riviera visit Monte Carlo with its casinos. Walk the Formula 1 race track.
- Arles: Visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites, a good example of the adaptation of an ancient city to medieval European civilization. See its impressive Roman monuments.
- Barcelona: Explore this vibrant city and see the Sagrada Familia, La Rambla and its many other sites.
- **Avignon:** Visit the fortified town of Avignon and see the Papal Palace.
- Pont du Gard: Visit the famous 2000 year old Roman aqueduct.
- **Geneva:** Visit this global city as you take a scenic drive past Lake Geneva.
- **Switzerland:** You visit Jungfraujoch and walk on a glacier. Enjoy the spectacular scenery on mountain pass crossing into Italy.
- **Munich:** Enjoy a German meal in a traditional beer hall in Munich.
- Rhine Valley: Take a scenic boat cruise from St Goar to Boppard (included). Enjoy a stroll down the Rhine and taste some local beers.
- Luxembourg: Explore the fortified city centre.
- Paris: Guided coach tour of Paris with the opportunity to see the Eiffel Tower- Entrance Included, Arc de Triomphe & les Champs Elysees. A cruise down the River Seine.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: London - Dover - Bruges - Amsterdam

Depart London and catch a glimpse of the White Cliffs of Dover as you cross the English Channel. Next we stop for a short visit to the ancient city of Bruges, famous for many things including beer and chocolates. Arrive in Amsterdam and join us after dinner for a walking tour in the world famous Amsterdam 'Red Light District', which leaves the night open to paint the town red!(Overnight 3* hotel) (Dinner)

Day 2: Amsterdam countryside tour

This morning our countryside tour starts with a cheese farm visit. Of course, the artwork is edible and the Dutch won't let you leave before you realise there is more to cheese than cheddar. We then visit the famous fishing village of Volendam, before going to the windmill village of Zaanse Schans, famous for the making of wooden shoes, or "klompe". Free afternoon to explore Amsterdam at your own pace. Perhaps take in a canal cruise, or Anne Frank's House, Dam Square, van Gogh Museum or maybe a bicycle tour. (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 3: Amsterdam - Berlin

Berlin has so much to show and offer, tonight you can enjoy and explore the cool, weird and wonderful bars and clubs of Berlin! (Overnight hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4: Berlin

We begin the day with a guided walking tour of the city and all its famous sites. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own leisure. Berlin is a mix of old and new, East and West! The city is one of few cities that has three UNESCO World Heritage sites, and the only city in the world with three active opera houses. (Overnight hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 5: Berlin - Dresden - Prague

We start our Eastern European adventure in Dresden - try some of the local food like bratwurst over lunch time. Explore the sights of this former Eastern German city - restored after it's near complete destruction in the Second World War. Continue to Prague for a guided local walking tour and discover the cobbled stone maze of the medieval city! (Overnight hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 6: Prague

Explore the amazing capital city of the Czech Republic. Prague's famous castle has been the home to a Czech King, president and even a Roman Emperor, and it also boasts the largest castle area in the world! (Overnight hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 7: Bratislava - Vienna

Explore the historic streets of Bratislava. Boasting amazing architecture, history and natural landscapes. Historically known for building VW cars, the manufacture of furniture, and musical instruments; if you listen closely, Bratislava has many interesting tales to tell. We continue to Austria's lively capital, Vienna! (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 8: Ljubljana - Venice

We drive through Austria today, crossing into Slovenia and the pretty capital city, Ljubljana. Our next stop is Venice, famous for water, romance and beauty, for an evening local guided tour of the city. (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 9: Venice

A great day to explore Venice to the Island of Murano for a glass-blowing & lace making demonstration. Alternatively you can simply relax and soak up the sun on the sandy beaches at Jesolo or Lido! (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 10: Venice - Rome

We depart Venice and continue south to Rome. Join us this afternoon for a local guided walking tour combining ancient wonders with Renaissance master pieces. See the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Roman Forum and the Colosseum. (Overnight resort bungalow) (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 11: Rome and the Vatican City

You explore the ancient cities of Rome and the Vatican City, the smallest country in the world. The Vatican City is a UNESCO World Heritage site; the only site to encompass a whole country, and it issues its own passports!(Overnight resort bungalow)(Breakfast)

Day 12: Pompeii or Rome

You may want to take a day trip to Pompeii, famous for the destruction caused by Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD in the old Roman city. Or head into Rome to spend the day at leisure. (Overnight resort bungalow)(Breakfast)

Day 13: Florence and Tuscany

Leaving Rome we head to Florence. On arrival you have a local guided city tour before having the opportunity to shop in, or just visit, the world famous leather markets. Spend the night in the heart of Florence, where the evening meal includes typical Italian cuisine. A great night to 'show your moves' at the 70's-styled local disco.(Overnight hotel) (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 14: Pisa - Nice

Today we visit one of the most famous sites in the world for a photo-stop, the leaning tower of Pisa! We make a stop at the famous Fragonard perfumery before heading to our hotel on the French Riviera.(Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast)

Day 15: Nice and the French Riviera

As the saying goes: "It's always nice in Nice". A great day to lie on the beach and follow it with a night on the town in glamorous Monaco or Iuxurious Monte Carlo. (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 16: Arles - Barcelona

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site in Arles, often called the soul of Provence, this town on the Rhône attracts art lovers, archaeologists. Next we head to Spain and the energetic city of Barcelona, classified as one of the most interesting cities in Europe. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 17: Barcelona

Today to enjoy the delights of Barcelona. You can visit the many famous sites, or simply wonder down the vibrant La Rambla - Barcelona's busiest avenue attracting 150 000 visitors a day is crammed with street artists, food stalls, markets and many restaurants! Tonight you can experience the Spanish nightlife for yourself in one of the many night clubs. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast)

Day 18: Barcelona

Today continue your sightseeing in Barcelona. Or simply relax on the beach and enjoy the beautiful city on our own. (Overnight 3-star hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 19: Barcelona - Avignon

Depart Barcelona and continue to the Pont du Gard to see the famous 2000 year old Roman aqueduct. Visit to the fortified town of Avignon and see the Papal Palace. (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 20: Geneva - Switzerland

A great day to experience the beauty of Switzerland! Enjoy a relaxing, scenic drive past Lake Geneva with free time for lunch in Geneva. We continue to the Swiss Alps where we stay in a typical mountain village in the heart of the Jungfrau region. One of the most-visited places in the Alps, it is also a World Heritage site. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 21: Jungfrau, Swiss Alps

A free day to explore and take in the spectacular scenery. This is also a great day to visit Jungfraujoch where you can have a snow fight, even in the middle of summer, on top of the 4000m high glacier. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast)

Day 22: Switzerland - Liechtenstein - Munich

Depart Jungfrau for Germany with a lunch stop in Liechtenstein, the small country sandwiched between Switzerland and Austria. After this we arrive in Munich and finish off the day with dinner at a traditional beer hall. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 23: Rhine Valley

This morning we continue into Germany, where your Rhine Valley experience awaits: Enjoy a drink as the Rhine River boat takes you to your hotel in the heart of Rhine Valley. Sights along the way include the most concentrated stretch of castles in Europe, vineyards, cliffs and medieval German towns. After a tasty German dinner, why not take a relaxing stroll along the river, enjoy the hospitality of the locals, or quench your thirst with the taste of a local German cocktails and take time out to recharge. (Overnight 3* hotel)(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 24: Luxembourg - Paris

One of Europe's smallest countries - it's Luxembourg this morning! We continue to Paris, 'The City of Lights and Love'. On your first evening, explore the city from the comfort of the coach on a guided coach tour, where you will be shown the sights of the city, with the help from your tour leader. In the evening indulge in the Parisian nightlife surrounding the Moulin Rouge and local bars. (Overnight 2 or 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 25: Paris free day

The whole day is yours! cruise up the Seine River to the Eiffel Tower, see world famous artworks at the Louvre, head to Montmatre to see the Sacre Coeur. Ask your tour leader for more ideas and suggestions. The diversity of Paris means that you can admire famous artworks, visit historical landmarks, indulge in the finest French cuisine, check out the latest fashions, cover yourself in perfume or simply just relax in a café, all in one day if you wish! (Overnight 3* hotel) (Breakfast)

Day 26: Paris – Onward Destination

After breakfast Transfer to Airport for flight to onward destination (Breakfast)