

# Europe Trip timings

13 Apr – 26 Apr 2014

(UK time) (EU time)

(Sun 13.04)

**23:00**

Depart London

We kick off the trip from London. Meet your Trip Leader and rest of the crew - a bunch of other students from universities around the UK. Then get cosy before catching the ferry to the continent.

**Mon 14.04**

06:00

**07:30**

**London – Ghent - Amsterdam**

Arrive Ghent, BE

Wake up in Ghent, Belgium, in time for breakfast at a pavement café (mmm, got to try the waffles!), join our awesome boat tour of the medieval city's waterways, then go explore the beautiful historic centre. Expect hidden museums, stunning architecture and world famous chocolatiers.

12:00

**13:00**

Depart Ghent

Chill out on the bus as we drive through Holland, and get the Amsterdam low down, picking up a few essential Dutch phrases from your trip leader, en-route.

15:00

**16:00**

Arrive Amsterdam, NL

Getting into Amsterdam mid-afternoon, there's time to freshen up and explore the cool neighbourhood of our accommodation, before our Amsterdam welcome dinner. Choose from popular Dutch dishes and hang out with the rest of the group, then experience Amsterdam's nightlife, check out the coffee shops or take it easy back at the hostel.

**Tue 15.04**

**X**

**Amsterdam**

*(In Amsterdam)*

Meet our legendary local guides for an intimate walk around their city. The poignant story of Anne Frank, and the tales of Rembrandt's spending habits are fascinating, you'll also discover the truth behind the red light district and drug laws, and get loads of ideas for things to see and do.

The rest of the day is yours to explore. Learn about the nation's favourite cheese on our optional cheese tasting tour, visit the 17th century Anne Frank house, see the colours of the world's only floating Bloemenmarkt (Flower Market), rent a bike and explore the city like a local, or just enjoy the canals from aboard a boat or canal side cafe. For the football mad, there's also the Ajax stadium.

**Wed 16.04**

**11:00**

**Amsterdam – Rhine Valley**

Depart Amsterdam

Today we get out of the city and follow the Rhine river past romantic castles and vineyards on steep hillsides, stopping at the wine growing town of Boppard.

**15:00**

Arrive Boppard, DE

Hop on the optional chair ride (eek!) 1000m above the town and you'll see why UNESCO gave it World Heritage status for its outstanding beauty. Down in the town's pretty streets look out for cuckoo clocks, try good wine and grab a tasty German lunch.

**17:30** Depart Boppard  
Further along the Rhine is our stop for the night, just outside the ancient university town of Heidelberg.

**19:00** Arrive Mannheim, DE  
Our accommodation sits on the edge of the Rhine River, after two nights in Amsterdam, it's the perfect place to chill out and enjoy some friendly German hospitality with the rest of the group.

**Thu 17.04** **Rhine Valley – Heidelberg - Munich**

**09:00** Depart Mannheim

**09:30** Arrive Heidelberg, DE  
Spend the morning exploring the beautiful Baroque streets of Heidelberg, Germany's oldest university town, home to Heidelberg University, founded in 1386, one of Europe's oldest institutions.

Get ideas from your trip leader for stuff to do. Climb Saints' Mountain along the Philosophers' Walk for awesome views of the old town and castle, check out the ruined 11th-century Monastery of St. Michael and find cool little student cafés on the ancient town square.

**13:00** Depart Heidelberg  
Then it's back on our bus to Bavaria.

**17:00** Arrive Munich, DE  
We arrive in Munich, home of the famous Oktoberfest, in time for an evening at the city's most popular beer garden! Grab a seat at the long tables, try a stein or two of German beer and enjoy Bratwurst (sausage), Steckerlfisch (grilled mackerel) and pretzels for a night hanging with the locals.

**Fri 18.04** **Munich**

**X** *(In Munich)*

After being bombed during World War II, many of Munich's historic buildings were reconstructed. Join our optional top-rated bike tour to see the stunning 1800s architecture the city is famous for, and be entertained by the awesome local guides at Mike's Bike Tours!

Get more top tips from your trip leader for a free afternoon discovering Munich. Get your culture fix at The Pinakothek, the city's brilliant art gallery, relax in the enormous Englischer Garten, one of Europe's biggest city parks or check out the BMW Museum next the iconic 4 cylinder-shaped BMW HQ.

**Sat 19.04** **Munich – Salzburg - Venice**

**08:00** Depart Munich

We hit the road again today for the short journey through Bavaria crossing the border into Austria, for a morning in the famously beautiful Salzburg!

**10:00** Arrive Salzburg, AT  
Exploring this romantic Baroque city, just north of the Alps, we guarantee you'll get your culture fix. Mozart's birthplace, film set locations from 'The Sound of Music',

Gothic churches and the medieval fortress high above the city are just a few favourites.

Then find yourself a place for lunch down the pretty historic streets (saving space for the local dessert, Salzburg Nockerl!), before jumping back on the coach as we head into the mountains.

**13:00**

Depart Salzburg

Austria is perhaps one of the most beautiful destinations in Europe. Kick back as we cruise past beautiful rolling landscapes, pretty little villages and Europe's highest mountains.

After a couple of stops for photos and snacks, we cross the border into Italy

**19:00**

Arrive Venice, IT

Arriving at sunset, and travelling by private water taxi across the Venetian lagoon up the canals to our waterfront accommodation, we guarantee you won't forget your first night in Venice. After checking into our waterfront accommodation, join us for pizza in Venice!

### **Sun 20.04**

**X**

#### **Venice**

*(In Venice)*

With over 100 small islands, packed with 1000 years of magnificent architecture, separated by a network of canals and connected by ancient bridges, Venice is the ultimate place to explore!

Hop on a water taxi after breakfast to meet Antonella our legendary local guide to uncover the most famous sights - Saint Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, Marco Polo's house, Rialto Market - and get off the beaten track down the back streets for stories of Venice's fascinating lifestyle, past and present.

Then, when you're ready, Antonella has loads of ideas and tips to share for you to get the most out of your day in Venice. Take a gondola up the Grand Canal, try fresh Venetian cuisine at Rialto Market, people watch on St Mark's Square and get stuck into tasty gelato (Italian ice cream).

### **Mon 21.04**

**09:30**

#### **Venice – Verona – Lugano – Swiss Alps**

Depart Venice

After breakie over looking the Venetian lagoon we hit the road.

**10:50**

Arrive Verona, IT

Stopping in gorgeous Verona to search the Roman streets for the balcony in Shakespeare's love story, Romeo and Juliet, and grab an espresso, before continuing our journey across Northern Italy.

**14:00**

Depart Verona

**16:40**

Arrive Lugano, CH

Passing Lake Garda and Lake Como we cross the border into Switzerland stopping at Lugano for a bite to eat next to the lake, before starting the ascent into the massive Swiss Alps mountain range, as the sun begins to set.

**18:00**

Depart Lugano

**20:50**

Arrive Interlaken, CH

Bed for the next two nights is at our awesome award-winning alpine villa, in the heart of Interlaken, the greatest adventure mecca of the northern hemisphere!

**Tue 22.04****X****Swiss Alps***(In Interlaken)*

Wake up to views of the 4000m snow-covered Jungfrau mountain and a big, Swiss, all you can eat breakfast! Then choose how to spend your day in the Swiss Alps.

Adrenalin junkie. Interlaken is Europe's No1 for adventure sports, there is no shortage of adrenalin filled activities to have a go at - hang gliding, paragliding, skydiving (!), rafting, bungee, mountain biking..... book any optional activity directly with the guys at our accommodation.

Mountain explorer. Choose the optional cog-wheel train ride up past canyons, waterfalls and through the clouds to Jungfraujoch. Towering at 11,333ft (3,454m) you are officially at 'The Top of Europe' with awesome 360 views over the largest glacier in Europe!

If you'd rather not jump out of a plane, or climb 11,000ft, there's a load to do in and around Interlaken. Our friends at the hostel are full of ideas.

**Wed 23.04****09:00****Swiss Alps – Burgundy - Paris**

Depart Interlaken

Leaving the Alps this morning, kick back, relax and enjoy the views as we head down into the romantic French vineyards in the gentle rolling hills of Bourgogne (Burgundy).

**13:00**

Arrive Beaune, FR

Beaune is a pretty medieval town, capital of this scenic wine growing region and home to over 100km of tunnels and wine cellars where local wine producers store their produce.

This morning, the group gets an exclusive tour of a small family wine cave. You'll learn how wine is produced, go underground to see the old oak barrels where wine is stored, and end with a wine testing session, trying delicious Burgundy and Chablis wines. There's also chance to buy wine to take home.

Then spend a few hours exploring the cobbled streets and alleyways of the historic town, grab some baguettes for lunch, and jump back on the bus as we head to the capital!

**16:00**

Depart Beaune

En-route we'll give you the low down about Paris, entertain you with stories and you can work on your essential French phrases - n'est pas?

**20:00**

Arrive Paris, FR

We get to Paris in time to get dinner and explore the area around our accommodation.

**Thu 24.04****08:00****Paris & Versailles**

Depart Paris hostel

Grab breakfast at the hostel then discover the extravagant chateau of Louis XIV on an optional trip out to the Palace of Versailles.

**09:00**

Arrive Versailles

With over 700 rooms and immense gardens occupying a space larger than Manhattan, there's a load to explore.

**14:00** Depart Versailles

**15:00** Arrive back in Paris

Back in Paris there's plenty of free time and loads of ideas from your Trip Leader. See the Mona Lisa at the Louvre, go window-shopping along the Champs Elysses or in the spectacular Galeries Lafayette, wander the gardens of the Marais or watch the world go by from the comfort of a boulevard cafe.

**19:00** Start Paris bus tour from the hostel (with local guide)

In the evening join our Paris highlights bus tour of the main sights. Think the Seine, Louvre, Notre Dame, Champs Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe. Hop on and off for photos and finish with a glass of Champagne (that's on us) beneath the Eiffel Tower as the city lights are switched on. Round up some friends at the end of the night for dinner and experience Paris at night.

**20:30** Finish bus tour at the Eiffel Tower

**Fri 25.04**

**Paris - London**

Free time. After breakfast, the day is all yours. Check out Paris' smaller attractions, do a little souvenir shopping, take time out to find the graves of Jim Morrison and Oscar Wilde in Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise or sit back at a pavement cafe and watch the world go by!

**19:00** Depart Paris hostel

**19:30** Arrive Paris restaurant (Pantheon)

Our 12-day adventure ends tonight with a big farewell dinner. Join the group in the Latin Quarter at our favourite French bistro for a three-course dinner of delicious French cuisine. It's a chance to say farewell to your travel companions and goodbye to the city!

**21:00** **22:00** Depart Paris (Pantheon)

We leave Paris late evening to arrive back in London early the next morning.

**(Sat 26.04)**

**05:00** **06:00** Arrive London

***\*We try our best to stick to these times, but circumstances beyond our control (like an overturned tractor spilling grapes all over the road in Burgundy!) can sometimes affect our schedule.***