



12 day coach tour of Europe itinerary

XEE17 ITIN 011116

12 DAY ITINERARY

Tour commences and concludes in London.

DAY 1: London, Paris

Welcome to your 12 day Europe tour! 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! D

DAY 2: 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... B

DAY 3: Paris, Swiss Alps

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! B,D

DAY 4: Swiss Alps.

Are you excited!! It's a guaranteed snow day!! For 365 days of the year, Jungfrauoch is blessed with snow, and today you have the option to explore the 'Top of Europe' on one of our most popular excursions! The journey up the mountain is a highlight in itself, and you shall be shuttled to the highest railway station in the whole of Europe, and rewarded with the most inspirational views imaginable.. This 4000m glacier has a beauty all of its own, and the combination of ice, snow, rock and epic views will stay with you for life. Once at the top, frolic as you will. Alternatively, for those who wishing to spend their free day exploring the local sights, you can head to Interlaken, feasting on Swiss chocolate fondue, do a spot of sightseeing and souvenir shopping, or just wander the village, breathing in that crisp, fresh, Alpine air! B

DAY 5: Swiss Alps, Florence, 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 Michaelangelo'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. B

DAY 6: Tuscany, Pisa, 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 Rome, where your tour leader will introduce you to the Italian capital from the comfort of your coach. This afternoon is a 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 your accommodation for the evening, you can start to plan what to do with your free day tomorrow. B,D

DAY 7: Rome.

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 3-course lunch and gelato tasting. B

DAY 8: Rome, Venice

After roaming Rome, you shall now visit Venice on the next leg of your 12 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 - perched across 118 islands, and known for its canals, gondolas, masks, piazzas, art, 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 world-famous St Mark's Square, Grand Canal and Rialto Bridge. The evening is yours to enjoy authentic Italian delights, with 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. B

DAY 9: Venice, Munich, Bavaria

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. 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 capital 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 stein on us! Prost! B,D

DAY 10: Bavaria, Rhine Valley

Your German adventure continues, with you heading to one of the most picturesque sections of the famous Rhine River. The Rhine Valley is nestled to the north of Munich and boasts the highest concentration of castles and vineyards in Europe. Just for you, we have organised a Rhine Valley river cruise experience, so that you can relax, take in the scenery and medieval townships, whilst filling your lungs with crisp, fresh country air. As you dock at a quaint gothic German village on the banks of the

Rhine, you will be checked into your hotel, and enjoy a lovely German dinner. Afterwards, why not take an evening stroll along the banks of the river, or explore the village? There is a world famous Cuckoo Clock waiting to be discovered, and a shop bearing the world's largest beer stein! B,D

DAY 11: Rhine Valley, Amsterdam.

This morning you will say your goodbye's 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 heart's content. The cafes, restaurants and bars will be buzzing with activity and atmosphere. B,D

DAY 12: Amsterdam, Bruges, 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. B

Includes meals: B = Continental breakfast, D = Welcome and other dinners as per final itinerary.