

WONDERS OF EUROPE

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in London, England

Check into your hotel. In the afternoon, you may want to start exploring the lively British capital. Uniformed hosts are available to help you make the most of your stay.

Day 2 London

A full day to savor our rich program of optional activities: take a panoramic tour of London's landmarks, visit the Tower of London, or choose an excursion to Windsor Castle. Tonight, maybe a leisurely cruise on the Thames River? (B)

Day 3 London–Brussels, Belgium

Leave London in the early morning and head through the lush English countryside to the Channel port, where you board a FERRY for the Continent. Here, your Tour Director and luxury coach meet you, and you're off across Belgium to Brussels.

Day 4 Brussels–Luxembourg–Lucerne Area, Switzerland

Extraordinary vistas on the drive south today! Take a break in Luxembourg, capital of the world's only sovereign Grand Duchy. Then drive through the wine-growing farmland of Alsace before crossing the border into Switzerland. Finally, approach the Swiss Alps before arriving in the Lucerne area. (B)

Day 5 Lucerne Area–Liechtenstein–Innsbruck Area, Austria

This morning, take advantage of the Lucerne visit and maybe join the optional excursion to the top of one of the famous mountains. Later, head for Vaduz in the tiny but very wealthy Principality of Liechtenstein. To the east are the picture-perfect views of Austria's Vorarlberg and, once you're through the Arlberg Tunnel, the scenic splendor of the Inn Valley. Overnight in the Innsbruck area, with time for a walk in the city center and to see the GOLDEN ROOF. (B,D)

Day 6 Innsbruck Area–Venice Area, Italy

Enjoy vistas of the Tyrolean Alps and the foothills of the Dolomites while crossing Brenner Pass into Italy. Reach Venice by MOTORBOAT to view the Bridge of Sighs and Doge's Palace plus ST. MARK'S SQUARE before the visit to a GLASSBLASING WORKSHOP. Don't miss out on the optional gondola serenade, gliding through century-old canals. (B,D)

Day 7 Venice Area–Assisi–Rome

An interesting drive southward, cutting across the Po plain, then through the gentle Umbrian hills to Assisi, where St. Francis was born in 1182. Visit the world-famous BASILICA with its beautiful frescoes by Giotto, then head for Rome. (B)

Day 8 Rome

Today's sightseeing of the "Eternal City" with a Local Guide features ST. PETER'S SQUARE, and includes an inside view of the COLOSSEUM and the ROMAN FORUM. (B)

Day 9 Rome–Florence–Montecatini

Say "Arrivederci, Roma" this morning as you drive northwards through lovely Tuscan countryside to reach Florence in the afternoon. On the included walking tour with a Local Guide, discover the landmarks of this Renaissance city, like Piazza del Duomo with the Loggia dei Lanzi, Palazzo Vecchio, and the breathtaking cathedral on Piazza del Duomo. Overnight in the spa town of Montecatini. (B)

Day 10 Montecatini–Pisa–Èze, France–French Riviera

Stop in Pisa to see the Leaning Tower and the SQUARE OF MIRACLES. Bypassing the great port of Genoa, head north to Èze, getting glimpses of the Italian and French Rivas. Visit one of the famous PERFUME WORKSHOPS in Èze before reaching your overnight destination on the lovely French Riviera. (B)

Day 11 French Riviera–Aix-En-Provence–Lyon Area

Leave the French Riviera this morning and head inland, crossing sun-drenched Provence. Stop in Aix-en-Provence, then head to the vineyards of the Rhône Valley. Overnight in the Lyon area. (B,D)

Day 12 Lyon Area–Beaune–Paris

Vistas of famous vineyards on the way to Beaune, famous for wines such as Chambertin and Nuits-Saint-Georges. Its Hôtel-Dieu is one of the oldest hospitals in Europe. Head for the final excitement of Paris, the most sparkling city in the world. Time to enjoy an optional cabaret show. (B)

Day 13 Paris

One full day to explore the city that's known throughout the world for its fashion, art and museums, delicious food, and joie de vivre. Included sightseeing with a local expert shows off many of the best-known Parisian sights: La Sorbonne, Arc de Triomphe, Madeleine, the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramid near the Louvre, the Invalides, and Champs Elysées. Optional excursions to Versailles are available to the Palace and Gardens of Versailles and, to celebrate the success of your tour, a French farewell dinner might be included in the ticket. (B)

Day 14 Paris

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

Transportation:

Scheduled transatlantic flights and airport transfers in London and Paris if Cosmos issues the air tickets. Round-trip transfers between London and the Channel ports; on the Continent, private first-class air-conditioned motorcoach. Cross-Channel transfer boat in Venice