

EUROPE: THE GRAND TOUR

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Day 1: Fly to Great Britain

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to London.

Days 2-4: London

Sightseeing tour of London: From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Admire architectural marvels like St. Paul's Cathedral, and check out the five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus.

• Windsor Castle: At this former fortress, see priceless objects in the State Apartments like paintings by Rubens.

Days 5-7: Paris

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe and strike a pose in front of the Fiffel Tower

• Versailles: Explore the State Apartments of Louis XIV and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors. Walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens and marvel at dozens of ornate fountains.

Notre Dame Cathedral: Admire Notre Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows and vaulted ceilings.

Days 8-9: Brussels | Amsterdam

Travel to Amsterdam: Continue on to Amsterdam, with a stop in the Belgian capital of Brussels for lunch.

Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam: A local guide will show you the Westerkerk (West Church), where Rembrandt is buried. Pass by the flower markets—Amsterdam is known for its colorful tulips.

Anne Frank House: Visit where this young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944. This is also the site where she penned her poignant diary.

◆ Volendam & Zaanse Schans: See how Dutch life used to be in these quaint windmill-lined villages.

Day 10: Heidelberg

Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg: The majestic Old Bridge crosses into the heart of Heidelberg, where you'll travel along medieval streets lined with peaked red roofs.

Days 11-12: Lucerne

Travel to Lucerne: Travel by way of the legendary Black Forest, once the province of wolves, hermits and mad monks. On your way, behold the thundering Rhine Falls.

Sightseeing tour of Lucerne: The majestic Swiss Alps rise behind the shores of Lake Lucerne and provide the stunning backdrop to one of Switzerland's most picturesque cities.

• Mount Pilatus: Enjoy spectacular panoramic views of Lucerne.

Days 13-15: Munich | Salzburg

Neuschwanstein Castle: This Bavarian wonder is the inspiration for Disneyland's iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle.

Sightseeing tour of Munich: Today's sights include the Olympic Stadium, Marienplatz, the fashionable Schwabing district and the Residenz, former home of the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria.

Dachau: Take time to reflect at Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in 1935. In 1945, the Allies liberated the camp. Today, Dachau serves as a memorial museum.

Salzburg and the salt mines: Visit the village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll travel by underground train, boat and wooden slides through the 450-year-old salt mines. Next, tour musical Salzburg, city of Mozart and backdrop for The Sound of Music.

Days 16-17: Venice

Sightseeing tour of Venice: Travel via Innsbruck to Venice, where you'll see gondolas glide down the Grand Canal before stopping in St. Mark's Square. Attend a glass-blowing demonstration and watch expert craftsmen spin molten-hot wares.

Doge's Palace: At the pink-and-white Doge's Palace, see where mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, which links the palace to a prison.

Days 18-19: Florence

Sightseeing tour of Florence: Florence is home to world-renowned works of art, including Michelangelo's statue of David and Botticelli's The Birth of Venus. As you explore the city, pass by classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the medieval bridge Ponte Vecchio.

Duomo: See the domed cap of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, better known as the Duomo, which dominates the skyline.

 $\label{lem:Leather-making demonstration:} \mbox{See resident Florentine experts perform a leather-making demonstration.}$

Days 20-21: Assisi | Rome

Basilica of St. Francis: On your way to Rome, see the Basilica of St. Francis, where Giotto's painted frescoes illustrate the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints.

Sightseeing tour of Vatican City: Look for the papal protectors who flank the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica—they're the highly trained soldiers of the Vatican City's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, experience the breathtaking ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Sightseeing tour of Rome: Walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. Nearby, the ruins of the Roman Forum mark the former heart of the Roman Empire.

Days 22-23: Sorrento | Night Ferry

Sightseeing tour of Pompeii: See how the wealthiest ancient Romans lived at the Roman ruins—the artifacts they left behind make this one of the richest archaeological sites in the world.

Travel to Igoumenitsa: Make your way to Brindisi, where you will board a night ferry bound for Igoumenitsa.

Days 24-27: Delphi | Athens

Sightseeing of Meteora: Visit the Meteora monasteries, which were used as retreats during troubled times.

Sightseeing tour of Delphi: Visit the archaeological site centered around the Oracle of Delphi and climb the ruins of the Temple of Apollo.

Sightseeing tour of Athens: Ascend the Acropolis to view the Parthenon, an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy. Visit the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess, her wings clipped to prevent her from deserting the city. See where the first Olympic athletes entertained the gods of Mount Olympus at Olympic Stadium.

• Greek Evening: Opt to experience Greek culture during an evening of festive entertainment and cuisine.

Day 28: Depart for home

© 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 28-30: Greek islands & Turkey cruise

Greek cruise: Your ports of call include picturesque Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos and Santorini.

© Shore excursion package: You have the opportunity to choose one of two shore excursion packages: Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages and the Minoan Palace of Knossos; or Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages, the Minoan Palace of Knossos and Oia Village.

Day 31: Depart for home