



## Day 1: Fly to Great Britain

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

## Day 2: London

**Arrive in London:** Welcome to the cosmopolitan city of London, truly one of the world's great cities. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

**Explore London:** Ready to see London on foot? Stretch your legs and see Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, and Leicester Square on a walking tour.

**Dinner:** Enjoy an authentic fish and chips dinner.

## Day 3: 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. Behold the Baroque domes and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Check out the lively five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus as well as the urban greenery of Hyde Park. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour beside the River Thames and snap photos of the Tower of London.

📍 **Windsor Castle:** In this former fortress, see priceless objects in the State Apartments, like paintings by Rubens and Holbein. Encounter the Gothic splendor of St. George's Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs including Henry VIII. Take a look into the miniature world of Queen Mary's Dolls' House, where castle items are replicated in 1/12th scale—including functional lighting and plumbing systems. Those who do not join the excursion will enjoy free time in London.

## Day 4: London | Paris

**Travel to Paris:** Board a Eurostar train and travel to the City of Light.

**Explore Paris:** On your walking tour, head to the Latin Quarter, named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populate the area.

**Notre-Dame Cathedral:** During a visit, admire Notre-Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows, and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner in the Latin Quarter.

## Day 5: Paris

**Sightseeing tour of Paris:** Ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe and strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. Your guide shares insight into Parisian culture and stories of the city's military history when you continue past Les Invalides.

📍 **Versailles:** Nobody does decadence like Louis XIV, and there's no better testament to this than Versailles. On your excursion to this lavish estate, explore the State Apartments and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors. Walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens and marvel at dozens of ornate fountains. Louis XIV hosted his royal court here to reign in their power and prevent their political rise. Those who do not go to Versailles will enjoy free time in Paris.

## Day 6: Paris | Night train

**Louvre:** Enter by I.M. Pei's glass pyramid, and discover the Greek, Roman, and Asian antiquities, as well as precious objects from the Middle Ages, that await inside. The Louvre's massive halls are home to more than 35,000 objects; among them is Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the *Mona Lisa*. Get an up-close look at her beguiling smile. Later this evening, board a night train bound for Italy.

## Day 7: Night train | Florence

**Sightseeing tour of Florence:** Florence is known as the birthplace of the Italian language, opera, and the Renaissance. As you explore the city, pass by classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop.

**Duomo:** The domed cap of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, or the Duomo, dominates the skyline. Opposite the Duomo, look for the bronzed doors of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise at the Baptistery.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group.

## Day 8: Florence | Assisi | Rome

**Sightseeing tour of Assisi:** Today, travel to the town of Assisi. You'll see the Basilica of St. Francis, where Giotto's painted frescoes illustrate the life of this beloved saint. Here the remains of St. Francis are entombed in a stone crypt above one of the altars.

**Travel to Rome:** Arrive in Rome in the evening.

## Day 9: Rome

**Sightseeing tour of Vatican City:** On your sightseeing tour, 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, pass under gilded archways before visiting the saint's tomb. Experience Michelangelo's breathtaking frescoes at the Sistine Chapel.

**Sightseeing tour of Rome:** Walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. Here, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Nearby, the ruins of the Roman Forum mark the former heart of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave many of his political speeches on this site.

**Rome on foot:** On your self-guided walking tour, view the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. Continue to the grand Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps, Europe's widest staircase. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

**Dinner:** Enjoy an authentic pizza dinner.

## Day 10: Depart for home

### 📍 2-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION

## Days 10-11: Rome | Pompeii | Sorrento region

**Sightseeing tour of Pompeii:** Mild weather, fragrant lemon groves, and the stunning Bay of Naples welcome you to the Sorrento region. See how the wealthiest ancient Romans lived at the ruins—the artifacts they left behind make this one of the richest archaeological sites in the world.

**Dinner:** On Day 11, enjoy dinner with your group.

**Capri:** Spend some time in stunning Capri, home of the sirens, according to Greek myth. Since the days of ancient Greece, Capri's crystalline waters and breathtaking cliffs made it a favorite resort destination.

## Day 12: Depart for home