


European Masterpiece - GSA (5271)

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2018 Tour Details

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This comprehensive European tour takes in the best of Western, Central, and Southern Europe—their vibrant cities, historic sights, stunning scenery, and architectural masterpieces. Start in London and end in Amsterdam with sightseeing and a canal cruise. Along the way, visit many of Europe's capitals (Paris, Rome, Athens, and Vienna) as well as some smaller cities, including Barcelona, Florence, Innsbruck, and Lucerne. History buffs will delight in visiting Rome's Colosseum, completed in the 1st century AD, and Roman Forum, dating back to the 7th century BC; the Acropolis in Athens, dating back to the 5th century BC; Pompeii, where you'll see what life was like during the Roman Empire before Mount Vesuvius destroyed and preserved the town in 79 AD; Carcassonne, perhaps Europe's best-preserved fortified town; Innsbruck's Golden Roof, built for Emperor Maximilian in the 15th century; Lucerne's Chapel Bridge, built in the 14th century as part of the city's fortifications and now Europe's oldest-preserved wooden bridge; Pisa's Leaning Tower; Florence's Duomo; and more. Those who love spectacular scenery will also be delighted on this Europe tour. In France, travel along the Loire River past the castles of Amboise and Chaumont; marvel at the vineyards in Bordeaux; and enjoy the bright colors in Provence. Enjoy a Rhine cruise, with its scenic countryside, historic castles, and charming villages. Overnight in the French Riviera, between the mountains and the deep-blue Mediterranean Sea, and enjoy drives along both the French and Italian Rivas. In Sorrento, explore the cobblestone streets, delight in the amazing views, and watch the sunset dip into the sea. But that's not all... wait until you see the alpine scenery in Switzerland with the towering peaks. This European tour is a masterpiece for value-minded vacationers! Just be sure to bring your camera to capture all of the memories!

To know more about the visas for this vacation, [click here](#)

To know more about Indian Restaurants, [click here](#)



Destinations & Sightseeing

Visits to Tours, Bordeaux, Carcassonne, Arles, Nice, Pisa, Sorrento, Olympia, San Marino, Venice, Velden, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Liechtenstein, Lucerne; Rhine cruise.

Guides:

Local Guides for city sightseeing in Paris, Barcelona, Florence, Pompeii, Rome, Athens, Vienna, Amsterdam; professional Tour Director while touring

Châteaux Country, Bordeaux Wine Country, French and Italian Riviervas, Bay of Naples, Peloponnese, Lake Wörth, Carinthia, Tyrolean Alps, Swiss Alps, Rhineland

Security cruise regulations require first and last name, date of birth, gender, nationality, and passport number at time of booking. December 28 Departure - New Year in Paris including Reveillon dinner

Transportation:

Eurostar London-Paris and Brussels-London; private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach; two-berth cabins with private shower and toilet on overnight ferries Italy-Greece-Italy; canal transfer boat in Venice; Rhine cruise; canal cruise in Amsterdam

Meals

Meals & Itinerary

Buffet breakfasts daily; 11 dinners, including a dinner at a local restaurant in Vienna

Itinerary

Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description.

Day 1

LONDON, ENGLAND–PARIS, FRANCE. Transfer to the railway station and board the EUROSTAR TRAIN to Paris with your Tour Director. Transfer to your overnight hotel.

Day 2

PARIS. Paris is an exciting cosmopolitan city, home to the Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysées. Get to know the main highlights with a local expert. (B)

Day 3

PARIS–CHÂTEAUX COUNTRY–TOURS–BORDEAUX. Travel along the Loire River past the castles of Chaumont and Amboise to stop in Tours. Continue to Poitiers, beautifully situated on a rocky plateau, then south through the Grande Champagne wine-growing area, to Bordeaux on the banks of the Garonne. (B,D)

Day 4

BORDEAUX–CARCASSONNE–BARCELONA, SPAIN. From the vineyards of the Gironde and the Garonne, travel to Carcassonne in the foothills of the Pyrenées. Stop and admire what is perhaps the best-preserved medieval fortified town in Europe. Later, reach the Spanish border and carry on through Catalonia. Once across the Ter River, you'll soon be in Barcelona. (B,D)

Day 5

BARCELONA. This morning's sightseeing with a Local Guide includes a drive around Montjuic to see the Olympic Stadium and a panoramic view of the port and city. Continue to the city center to Plaza Catalunya and Paseo de Gracia to admire the greatness and eccentricity of Gaudi's architectural masterpieces in the Houses Batlló and Mila and the Sagrada Familia (entrance fees not included). (B)

Day 6

BARCELONA–ARLES, FRANCE–FRENCH RIVIERA. Return to France, then into the vine-covered region of the Herault for a stop in Provencal Arles. Head across the Rhône towards the Mediterranean shores to the French Riviera. (B)

Day 7

FRENCH RIVIERA–ÈZE–PISA, ITALY–FLORENCE. Today, travel along the high coastal road to visit a PERFUME WORKSHOP in Èze. The day is highlighted by the drive along the French and Italian Rivas and into hilly Tuscany. Visit Pisa to see the Leaning Tower and the SQUARE OF MIRACLES. (B,D)

Day 8

FLORENCE–NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA. Don't miss the guided walking tour of Florence, "Cradle of the Renaissance," featuring the city highlights. Leave Florence, and travel south on the Autostrada del Sole through the sunlit valleys of Tuscany to the Neapolitan Riviera. (B)

Day 9

NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA. Enjoy a day at leisure, or an optional excursion to the legendary island of Capri. The island is surrounded by a rocky coastline, where the crashing sea has formed awe-inspiring caves. The town, with its pretty piazzetta, maze of streets, fashionable boutiques, and cozy restaurants, is a mecca for the jet set. (B,D)

Day 10

NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA–POMPEII–ROME. Today, travel north, with the Vesuvius volcano in the distance. Then, to Pompeii, where time stopped in 79 AD, when the Vesuvius eruption totally destroyed it. On the included visit to the ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, see the remains of luxurious villas, temples, theater, and forum. Later, head towards Rome, Italy's capital. (B)

Day 11

ROME. The "Eternal City" is steeped in history, vibrantly alive and exciting, and absolutely unique! Included sightseeing with a Local Guide starts with St. Peter's Square and Basilica. Other highlights are the iconic Colosseum, the largest amphitheater ever built; the Roman Forum; Piazza Venezia, and Campidoglio. An optional visit is available to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, world famous for Michelangelo's impressive fresco of The Last Judgment. (B)

Day 12

ROME–OVERNIGHT FERRY CROSSING TO PATRAS, GREECE. Leave Rome and drive across the verdant Apennine Hills towards the coast to embark on the OVERNIGHT FERRY to Greece. (B)

Day 13

PATRAS–OLYMPIA. Enjoy some daylight cruising towards the Greek coast before reaching Patras. Then, drive to legendary Olympia in the Peloponnese. (B,D)

Day 14

OLYMPIA–ATHENS. Today, join the optional sightseeing tour and learn more about the history of the original Olympic Games, when athletes competed with each other to honor the king of deities. Then, motor into the mountains of Arcadia and over the Corinth Canal to Athens, capital of Greece. Time later for an evening in the lively Plaka area. (B)

Day 15

ATHENS. A full day to explore the shops and museums at leisure or to join the optional full-day cruise to discover some of the incredible Aegean islands. (B)

Day 16

ATHENS–PATRAS–OVERNIGHT FERRY CROSSING TO ITALY. Enjoy guided morning sightseeing of Athens, which features the highlights of this ancient capital and a visit to the fascinating ACROPOLIS. Later, leave Athens and journey to Patras to embark on the FERRY for the Ionian Sea crossing back to Italy. (B)

Day 17

SAN MARINO. Disembark, then proceed north for an overnight in San Marino, one of the world's smallest and most ancient states, perched on Monte Titano. (B,D)

Day 18

SAN MARINO–VENICE AREA. Take a short walk through the main gate and up to Government House in the very heart of this tiny ancient republic. Later, travel along the Adriatic coastline through the Po Delta towards the Venice area. (B)

Day 19

VENICE AREA. The included orientation starts with a BOAT RIDE to St. Mark's Square and is followed by some time at leisure to absorb the atmosphere of this unique city. Then, visit a GLASSBLOWING WORKSHOP. Don't miss the optional gondola trip. (B,D)

Day 20

VENICE AREA–VELDEN, AUSTRIA–VIENNA. Leave the flat and fertile plains and journey into Austria's grand mountain and lake scenery. Stop in Velden on Lake Wörth, then northwards through the Styrian landscape to Vienna. This evening, enjoy a special dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Day 21

VIENNA. There's so much to see on your included sightseeing tour: the State Opera, Parliament, and the Town Hall. Stop for a stroll in Heroes' Square to view the majestic Hofburg, former residence of the Habsburg royal family. (B)

Day 22

VIENNA–SALZBURG–INNSBRUCK AREA. Travel along the Danube, and on to the alpine landscapes to Mozart's Salzburg. Stroll down the charming Getreidegasse, the town's elegant main shopping street. Views of mountain peaks and alpine villages bring you into the very heart of the Tyrol to its capital, Innsbruck. (B,D)

Day 23

INNSBRUCK AREA–LIECHTENSTEIN–LUCERNE AREA, SWITZERLAND. Get acquainted with Innsbruck on the orientation tour that includes the famous GOLDEN ROOF. Later, drive through the valleys and villages of the mountainous Tyrol to the Arlberg tunnel into Switzerland. Stop

briefly in Vaduz, Liechtenstein's capital, before heading for the Lucerne area. (B)

Day 24

LUCERNE. Sightseeing in one of Switzerland's finest cities takes in the impressive city walls, CHAPEL BRIDGE, ornate patrician houses lining cobblestone streets, and the LION MONUMENT. A selection of optional activities completes the day: a cruise on the fjord-like lake or an excursion to the top of one of the most beautiful mountains. (B,D)

Day 25

LUCERNE AREA–RHINE CRUISE–RHINELAND, GERMANY. More of Switzerland and its quaint little villages, farms, and chalets before crossing into Germany to the shores of the Rhine. Today's highlight is the included RHINE CRUISE past the legendary Lorelei rock, hilltop castles, terraced vineyards, and half-timbered villages. Overnight in the Rhineland. (B,D)

Day 26

RHINELAND–AMSTERDAM AREA, HOLLAND. North today, first through the industrial Ruhr and then into the canal criss-crossed countryside of Holland to Amsterdam. Enjoy a CANAL CRUISE to see the city from water level, then watch the cutting and polishing of precious stones at a famous DIAMOND CENTER. Later, sightseeing includes an orientation drive with a Local Guide. (B)

Day 27

AMSTERDAM AREA–LONDON, ENGLAND. Drive to Brussels and board the EUROSTAR train to London, where your holiday ends. (B)

Tour Director

With Cosmos, there's no better way to get to know your destination than through the eyes of your Tour Director. Averaging over a decade... we'd like you to meet a Tour Director, who is representative of the type of expert that will be with you on your vacation.

TRUUS HUIZINGA

Escorting tours for more than 10 years

"I enjoy sharing my stories about each country and city, and seeing travelers' reactions as they savor new cultures and experiences every day. Few other things in life make such a major impact in such a short time. It's so wonderful to meet a group of people who start the vacation as strangers but then often come away as lifetime friends. This gives me the passion to do what I do!"



Accommodations

PARIS Novotel Paris La Defense (F)
PARIS Forest Hill La Villette (ST)
BORDEAUX Mercure Bordeaux Meriadeck (MF)
BARCELONA Esperia St Joan (F)
BARCELONA Abba Garden (F)
FRENCH RIVIERA Campanile Nice Airport (ST)
FRENCH RIVIERA Quality Mediterranee (MF)
NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA Central Park (TC)
ROME NH Villa Carpegna (F)
OLYMPIA Olympia Palace (F)
ATHENS Acropolis Select (F)
ATHENS Golden Age (ST)
SAN MARINO Grand Hotel (F)
SAN MARINO Titano (MF)
VENICE Antony ()
VENICE Poppi (ST)
VIENNA Star Inn Schoenbrunn (ST)
INNSBRUCK Bon Alpina (ST)
INNSBRUCK Alpinpark (F)
LUCERNE Ibis Styles Luzerne City (ST)
LUCERNE Royal Luzern (ST)
RHINELAND H+ Hotel Koeln Bruehl (F)
AMSTERDAM Holiday Inn Express Arena Towers (ST)
AMSTERDAM NH Schiphol (F)

Optional Excursions

The following optional excursions may or may not be offered, and availability is subject to days of operation and seasonality. Please select a departure date to view optional excursions and pricing for a specific date (due to currency fluctuation, pricing shown is subject to change until purchased).