

Grand Tour of Europe



Say “*bonjour!*” to the Eiffel Tower during your sightseeing tour of Paris.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to London aboard an internationally recognized airline.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN LONDON

Welcome to London! After clearing customs and collecting your bags, look for the Hotel by Bus transfer desk. They will be providing the transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax or begin acquainting yourself with the city before tonight's included Welcome Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: LONDON SIGHTSEEING

An expert local guide leads this morning's guided sightseeing tour of London. Highlights of the panoramic tour include views of Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and a stop outside St. James's Palace, where you might glimpse the ceremonial Changing of the Guard (seasonal and weather dependent). After your sightseeing tour, join an optional excursion to Windsor Castle, the centuries-old retreat of Britain's Royal Family.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 4: EUROSTAR JOURNEY TO PARIS

This morning, transfer to St. Pancras Station. Here, you'll board the Eurostar, Europe's quarter-mile-

long, high-speed train that whisks its passengers below the English Channel and resurfaces in France. Relax aboard comfortable, state-of-the-art transportation, arriving at Gare du Nord in Paris just three hours later. Tonight, consider joining our optional Evening in Paris, featuring dinner at a local restaurant and a cruise along the Seine.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 5: PARIS SIGHTSEEING

This morning, you'll meet our local guide for a tour of the French capital. You'll motor along the fashionable Champs-Élysées and view the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and more. The afternoon is free to explore Paris on your own. Or join an optional excursion to Versailles, the opulent estate of Sun King Louis XIV.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 6: HIGH-SPEED TRANSFER TO AMSTERDAM

Enjoy a picturesque ride on the Thalys train to Amsterdam. The Low Countries will zip past your window as make your way to the Dutch capital. After checking in to your hotel, a local guide leads you on an afternoon walking tour of Amsterdam. You'll visit Dam Square and a local diamond factory, and enjoy a scenic canal cruise.

Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: canal cruise

16-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline and airport transfers
- The services of a multilingual Go Ahead Tour Director
- A licensed local city guide in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Cologne, Heidelberg, Lucerne, Verona, Venice and Rome
- 14 nights accommodations in comfortable, well-located hotels with twin beds and private bath or shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily; 5 three-course dinners
- High-speed Eurostar and Thalys train transfers and train portage
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Guided sightseeing and entrance fees to select sights as described

GUIDED SIGHTSEEING

DAY 3: London

DAY 5: Paris

DAY 6: Amsterdam

DAY 8: Cologne

DAY 9: Heidelberg

DAY 10: Lucerne

DAY 12: Verona

DAY 13: Venice

DAY 14: Rome

Tour Highlight

Percy Bysshe Shelley once described Lake Como as “a mighty river winding among the mountains and the forests.” Long a retreat for the rich and famous, you'll take in Lake Como's charms during an evening cruise.

Insider's Tip

Italians and visitors are divided when it comes to the question of the best gelato in Rome, with Giolitti's, Tre Scalini and San Crispino topping most lists.



Soak in the Old World charms of Lucerne.

DAY 7: FREE DAY IN AMSTERDAM

Today is free to explore the Dutch capital at leisure. Consider joining this morning's optional excursion to Delft and The Hague. Your first stop on this excursion is a visit to the world-famous flower market at Aalsmeer for a close-up look at one of Holland's best-known national exports: its brilliantly hued tulips. Continue to Delft, a charming town of canals, cobbled alleyways and medieval architecture. Your final destination is The Hague, seat of the Dutch Parliament and home to Queen Beatrix. In The Hague, you'll have the chance to visit the Maritshuis Museum, where you can view artistic treasures painted by the Dutch Masters. Tonight, you might choose to join our optional Canal Cruise with Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 8: COLOGNE & RHINE RIVER CRUISE

Board a bus this morning for Cologne, where a guided tour brings you inside the city's landmark Gothic cathedral. You'll also view the remnants of the city's Roman-era and medieval walls. Then, transfer to Boppard, where you'll board a river ship for a scenic cruise up the Rhine to Sankt Goar. There are six castles perched on the banks of this section of the Rhine, and you'll view them along with dramatic scenery as you cruise southward. Then, board a bus for the Heidelberg region. Dinner is included on land tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 9: HEIDELBERG SIGHTSEEING

Journey into Heidelberg this morning and discover its medieval charms on a guided tour. You'll visit the town's ancient castle, perched on a precipice over the Rhine. Transfer to Lucerne this afternoon. Included meals: breakfast

DAY 10: LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING

A local guide introduces you to this charming lakeside city. You'll visit Lucerne's Old Town and the captivating Löwendenkmal, a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 defence of the Tuileries. The balance of the day is free at leisure; consider joining our optional excursion to Mount Pilatus this afternoon. Included meals: breakfast

DAY 11: LAKE COMO BOAT CRUISE

Transfer over the Alps to Lake Como this morning. You'll arrive in time to board an evening lake cruise, when the tranquil beauty of Lake Como is on full display. Depending on your departure date, you might witness a gorgeous sunset! Enjoy an included dinner on land tonight. Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 12: VERONA SIGHTSEEING

A motorcoach brings you to Verona this morning, where you'll embark on a guided sightseeing tour. Highlights of your tour include the Roman-era Verona Arena and the Casa di Giulietta, where couples young and old pin love notes to the wall



Your tour begins with a look at London's icons, including the Tower Bridge.

below what is said to be Juliet's balcony. Then, continue on to Venice, arriving in time to enjoy an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 13: VENICE SIGHTSEEING

Experience the romance of Venice during this morning's guided sightseeing tour of the Doge's Palace, once the political heart of this powerful maritime empire. This afternoon, opt to join a gondola tour of the canals, complete with music.

Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: Doge's Palace

DAY 14: TRANSFER TO ROME

Journey to Rome by train this morning. As you travel south from Venice and cross the Apennine Mountains, you'll be treated to a panoramic view of the Italian countryside.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 15: ROME SIGHTSEEING

This morning, embark on a guided tour of Imperial Rome, including the Colosseum and the Forum Romanum. Then, consider this afternoon's optional excursion to Vatican City. Tonight, enjoy an included Farewell Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 16: DEPARTURE

This morning, a Go Ahead representative escorts



Witness timeless treasures in Florence, including Michaelangelo's David.

you to the airport for your return flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be provided.)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Florence

2 nights

DAY 16: Transfer to Florence this morning, arriving in time to enjoy a guided tour of the city's famous duomo and Chiesa di Santa Croce. This evening, join our optional Dinner in Fiesole.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 17: Enjoy a day at leisure in Florence. Consider joining our optional excursion to Siena and San Gimignano, followed by a wine tasting.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 18: Board your flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

Extension available on select departure dates. Space is limited. Call early to hold your spot. Extension requires a minimum of 10 travelers.



Travel Pace: 4

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - leisurely | 3 - active |
| 2 - comfortable | 4 - challenging |

Walking on Tour

Your tour is evenly paced to include fairly low-to-moderate walking with most sightseeing conducted by private motorcoach. There is some more uneven and hilly walking in Paris and Rome. During your free time, each city you'll visit is best explored on foot, although using local buses can alleviate periods of walking.

Visit goaheadtours.com for:

- Enhanced destination information
- Fun traveler scrapbooks
- Featured Tour Directors
- Personalized "My Account" Page
- Tour planning
- Meeting fellow travelers and sharing travel tips in Trip Forums
- Suggested reading lists

Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

LONDON

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Jan–Feb | 32°–44°F / 0°–7°C |
| Mar | 34°–49°F / 1°–9°C |
| Apr | 38°–54°F / 3°–12°C |
| May | 43°–61°F / 6°–16°C |
| June | 48°–67°F / 9°–19°C |
| July–Aug | 51°–71°F / 11°–22°C |
| Sep | 47°–65°F / 8°–18°C |
| Oct | 43°–59°F / 6°–15°C |
| Nov | 37°–50°F / 3°–10°C |
| Dec | 34°–45°F / 1°–7°C |

LUCERNE

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Jan | 35°–51°F / 2°–11°C |
| Feb | 37°–54°F / 3°–12°C |
| Mar | 41°–59°F / 5°–15°C |
| Apr | 46°–66°F / 8°–19°C |
| May | 52°–74°F / 11°–23°C |
| June | 58°–81°F / 14°–27°C |
| July–Aug | 63°–88°F / 17°–31°C |
| Sep | 58°–80°F / 14°–27°C |
| Oct | 50°–70°F / 10°–21°C |
| Nov | 42°–59°F / 6°–15°C |
| Dec | 36°–51°F / 2°–11°C |

ROME

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Jan | 38°–55°F / 3°–13°C |
| Feb | 39°–56°F / 3°–13°C |
| Mar | 42°–59°F / 6°–15°C |
| Apr | 46°–64°F / 8°–18°C |
| May | 53°–71°F / 12°–22°C |
| June | 60°–78°F / 16°–26°C |
| July–Aug | 64°–83°F / 18°–28°C |
| Sep | 60°–78°F / 16°–26°C |
| Oct | 53°–71°F / 12°–22°C |
| Nov | 46°–63°F / 8°–18°C |

Pre-departure information for your tour

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

This tour includes the following countries: England, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. In order to enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. No visa is required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for this tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential for your tour. A sun hat, sunglasses and a sturdy pair of walking shoes are recommended for sightseeing. It's always a good idea to be prepared for any eventuality—a lightweight sports jacket and rainwear are advised. If you plan to visit an especially elegant restaurant or attend the opera or theater, you will probably feel more comfortable in something more formal. Also, remember that it is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (entrance may be denied on this basis).

HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to England, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland or Italy. It is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates and overseas travel requirements.

CUISINE

You'll have the opportunity to taste a wide variety of cuisines on this tour. In London, reasonably priced traditional fare can be found at local pubs (stilton cheese, steak and kidney pie, haggis and Cumberland sausages). French cuisine is a national (and international) obsession, done with style and flair. Croissants and cafe au lait begin the day, followed by delicacies such as foie gras, pâté, escargot and truffles. French wines and coffees are some of the finest in the world. Traditional Dutch cuisine is hearty fare, primarily based on meat, potatoes and stew. The Dutch are known for cheeses such as Gouda, Edam and Leyden. Swiss food, influenced by surrounding countries, is varied and sophisticated; the most famous local dish is fondue, made from molten cheese, flavored with wine, garlic and liquor, into which pieces of skewered bread are dipped. Cuisine varies by region in Italy—in Lombardy, you'll find rice dishes such as risotto, while pastas such as spaghetti all' amatriciana are more common around Rome.

TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip flights arrive in London and depart from Rome. Your transfer upon arrival in London is provided by Hotel by Bus transportation, and you can find their desk when you make your way through customs and baggage. Included transportation is by train and private deluxe motorcoach.

ELECTRICITY

England uses 240 volts. All other destinations operate on the European standard 220 volts.

TIME ZONES

The United Kingdom operates on Greenwich mean time, which is five hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard time. France, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Italy are all one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST).

CURRENCY

The British pound and the euro are the currencies you will use on your tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in your destination country, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We advise that you take credit cards and ATM/bank cards. We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your purchases for fraudulent charges. *Please note:* It has been increasingly difficult to exchange traveler's checks outside of major cit-

ies—both at banks and shops—and they often attract higher fees.

TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalent of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

PURCHASING OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ON TOUR

If you have not yet purchased your optional excursions, you may be able to do so while on your tour. Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in U.S. dollars only), Visa, MasterCard or American Express as payment for optional excursions. Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged. Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See the separate "Optional Excursions" sheet for more information.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.



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