

Itinerary for Europe Escape • Expat Explore

Start Point:

Hotel in Rome,

Please contact us for more information

07:30 hrs

End Point:

Hotel in Rome,

Please contact us for more information

10:00 hrs

DAY 1: Start of tour in Rome - Venice



Welcome to Rome! After meeting up with your tour leader and group it's time to hit the road. Sit back and enjoy the scenery on the journey from Rome to Venice! Arrive in the "Floating City" known for its canals, gondolas, art and traditional glass and lace making. Join your tour leader for an orientation walk so you can use your free time later to explore. See the world-famous St Mark's Square, Grand Canal and Rialto Bridge. The evening is yours to enjoy authentic Italian delights, with hundreds of fantastic local restaurants and bars to choose from. Why not explore Venice the traditional way - from the canals. Enjoy the Gondolas & Water Taxis optional excursion to see Venice from a completely different perspective!

Experiences

Orientation tour of Venice: Your tour leader will take you into the heart of this unique floating city for an orientation to help you explore and see St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark's Museum, Campanile, Doge's Palace, Rialto Bridge and Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✕ Lunch: ✕ Dinner: ✕

Accommodation

Hotel Venezia
Hotel Ambasciatori & Delfino
Russott Hotel
Hotel Residence Elite

Optional Excursions

Venice Gondola Ride: € 25

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 2: Innsbruck - Munich - Bavaria



Arrivederci, for now till later on in the tour! Heading north toward Germany, you will encounter some of the most beautiful countryside in central Europe. The famous Brenner Pass will appear before you, and simply take your breath away, as we make our way to Austria for a comfort stop to get a taster of Innsbruck and its dramatic mountain backdrop. Arriving in Munich in the afternoon,

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there is plenty of time for an escorted walking tour of the city centre. With much of the city having to be restored after WW2, the modern and ancient history of Munich is fascinating, and the appreciation of the effort to rebuild the German city is gilded with respect. Munich plays host to one of the most famous beer festivals in the world - Oktoberfest! To give you a taste, this evening you will dine in a traditional beer hall, and enjoy a local beer on us! Prost!

Experiences

Scenic drive along Brenner Pass: Cross spectacular mountain passes and experience some amazing mountain vistas.

Visit Innsbruck: Enjoy a comfort stop to experience this beautiful Austrian city that lies in a valley between high mountains, making for an incredible backdrop. Munich orientation tour: your tour leader will take you on an orientation of Munich to get you acquainted with this wonderful German city.

Munich orientation tour: Your tour leader will take you on an orientation tour of Munich, the capital and largest city of the German state of Bavaria. You will see Karlsplatz and Marienplatz, New Town Hall, Church of our Lady, and (if you visit in winter) the traditional German Christmas markets.

German beer hall: Tonight we'll take you to a traditional German Beer Hall. Sample German beer, along with traditional German cuisine. Prost!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

Ibis Nürnberg City am Plärrer

Vienna House Easy Amberg

ibis Hotel München City

Best Western Hotel München Airport

DAY 3: Bavaria - Rhine Valley



Your German adventure continues, heading to one of the most picturesque sections of the famous Rhine River. Once we arrive in the Rhine Valley, relax on board a Rhine riverboat as we head to our hotel in the heart of this picturesque region. This is the most concentrated stretch of castles in all of Europe, and it also features vineyards, charming medieval towns and lofty cliffs. Learn the story of the castles, many of which are now in ruins since the river barons left long ago. Once the cruise is over we'll visit a local wine merchant for an included wine tasting - if the harvest has been good, you may even get to try eiswein (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing.

Experiences

Rhine river cruise: Cruise down the Rhine and see the beautiful scenery and the largest concentration of gothic castles (Sterrenberg, Liebestein, Katz and Fortress Rheinfels).

Rhine Valley wine tasting: Visit a local wine merchant in one of Germany's most famous wine-growing regions, and sample several types of delicious German wine. Popular varieties include Riesling, Spätburgunder and Pinot Noir. The region is also well known for eiswein (ice wine). It is a very sweet dessert wine made from grapes harvested in the freezing winter months.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

Wyndham Garden Koblenz Hotel

Rheinlust Hotel

Seminaris Bad Honnef

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DAY 4: Rhine Valley - Amsterdam



This morning you will say your goodbyes to Germany, and continue your Europe tour into the Netherlands. With your Expat Explore tour leader giving you a run down on local traditions and culture, you will indulge in three of the most iconic Dutch products - cheese, clogs and windmills! A very entertaining cheese and clog making display, will have you fascinated and wanting to taste and 'klomp' (klompen is the Dutch word for 'clogs'). Checking into your hotel you have a chance to freshen up, and then you'll head to the centre of Amsterdam for a twilight canal cruise. You will gain an alternative perspective of this eclectic and bohemian city whilst drifting past famous landmarks. Afterwards, you are free to explore the city to your heart's content. The cafés, restaurants and bars will be buzzing with activity and atmosphere.

Experiences

Windmills photo stop: No visit to the Netherlands is complete without some fun photos at the iconic Dutch windmills!

Cheese and clogs demonstration: See how these famous shoes are traditionally made by hand. You can also taste some fantastic cheeses and get the chance to shop and stock up on unique Dutch souvenirs.

Cruise along the canals in Amsterdam: Sail along Amsterdam's stunning canals at twilight and see the iconic sights that sit along the waterside - this is a perfect, relaxing introduction to Amsterdam!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

Hampton by Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
Holiday Inn Express Amsterdam - Schiphol
Best Western Plus Plaza Almere

DAY 5: Amsterdam - Ghent - Paris



Today it's Vaarwel to the Netherlands as we head to the Belgian city of Ghent. This picturesque port city is a cultural hub, and is known for its medieval architecture, which remains intact and is remarkably well preserved. Grab a waffle, stretch your legs and enjoy a stroll through the pedestrianized city centre. Leaving Ghent behind us, we make our way to Paris, the 'City of Lights'. We'll take you on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready - you'll be seeing some of the city's most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour we'll enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the Latin Quarter, an eclectic, bohemian and historic neighbourhood.

Experiences

Lunch stop in Ghent: Enjoy a quick stop in a different country as you enjoy free time for lunch in this Belgian port city.

Driving tour of Paris: Enjoy a driving tour upon arrival - spot the Tuileries Gardens, The River Seine, l'Île de la Cité, the Louvre Museum, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Lovers Bridge, Sacre Coeur, Montmartre, Pigalle (the Red Light District) and the Moulin Rouge!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

Hotel ibis Paris La Défense Centre

B&B Hôtel Paris Porte des Lilas

B&B Hôtel Paris Italie Porte de Choisy

Hôtel Kyriad Paris Nord Porte de Saint Ouen

DAY 6: Paris: Free Day



Enjoy a full free day to explore the French capital! The Seine River is the backbone of the capital, and flows through the heart of the city. Why not choose a cruise, and sail past the Notre Dame Cathedral, to the epic Eiffel Tower? You can explore on your own or join a full day of exploration in Paris! The Paris+ excursion will take you to all the iconic sights including the Tuileries Gardens, the Louvre Pyramid, and much more! Paris Disneyland is perfect for the ‘young at heart’, and is only a short distance away. Your Expat Explore tour leader is brimming with ideas and local knowledge for you to make the most of your time here.

Included Meals

Accommodation

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Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗

Hotel ibis Paris La Défense Centre

B&B Hôtel Paris Porte des Lilas

B&B Hôtel Paris Italie Porte de Choisy

Hôtel Kyriad Paris Nord Porte de Saint Ouen

Optional Excursions

Parisian Cabaret with drinks: € 75

An Evening in Montmartre: € 45

Paris +: € 55

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 7: Paris - Burgundy - Swiss Alps



Au revoir Paris! Today we sample a taste of small-town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune you can visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune, or try the famous wine. After lunch we take a long scenic drive across the border into Switzerland. Welcome to the Swiss Alps, your home for the next two days! You are now completely surrounded by nature's beauty. Literally, you can turn in any direction and you will see snow-capped peaks, clear-blue lakes and perfect hiking trails. Breathe in the fresh air and enjoy your time in this idyllic place.

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Experiences

Burgundy lunch stop: Enjoy a stop in Beaune, a UNESCO World Heritage site and famous wine-producing region. You will have some free time to explore this beautiful medieval town centre and the opportunity to try local food and wine.

Scenic Mountain Drive: Spectacular views as we drive through mountain passes and alongside lakes, breath-taking mountain vistas and scenic views of quaint Swiss towns.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

The Bear Inn Wilderswil

DAY 8: Swiss Alps: Free Day



The Swiss Alps has some of the highest peaks in the world! Surrounded by these peaks and glaciers you have the opportunity to feel on top of the world... Take a train or gondola to the top for magnificent mountain vistas. You have picture-perfect beauty all around you and endless photo opportunities. For those wishing to spend their free day exploring the local sights, you can feast on Swiss cheese fondue or do a spot of sightseeing. If you're looking for keepsakes, there are great local places for shopping Swiss Army knives and watches. Or wander through the villages and breathe in that crisp, fresh, Alpine air! What more could you want on your free day?

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗

Accommodation

The Bear Inn Wilderswil

Optional Excursions

Swiss Fondue Dinner: € 30

Jungfrauoch: Journey to the Top of Europe: € 190

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 9: Lake Como - Pisa - Tuscany



Today, we leave the Swiss Alps and wind our way toward Italy, stopping for lunch at the famous Lake Como. An enormous expanse of water fringed by picturesque scattered villages, it's perhaps not surprising that one of the villages, Laglio, is where George Clooney has a luxurious villa. Next stop, Pisa! Capture your iconic shots at the Leaning Tower of Pisa! A World Heritage UNESCO Site, The Leaning Tower is visited by tourists from every corner of the globe and is one of the most

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popular cultural European landmarks. Onwards to the exquisite Tuscan region - famous for wine, food, art and architecture. You will settle in Montecatini Terme, a spa town north-west of Florence. Time for a local wine or two.

Experiences

Lake Como lunch stop: Enjoy free time for lunch at Lake Como, one of the most beautiful and glamorous destinations we'll visit on the tour.

View the Leaning Tower of Pisa: Your chance to see the world-famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, or even take some iconic pictures of you 'holding up' the tower!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗

Accommodation

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio

Optional Excursions

Typical Tuscan Dinner: € 35

An Evening in Montecatini: € 45

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 10: Tuscany - Florence - Rome



After breakfast in Tuscany, we head to enchanting Florence. Once we arrive, a local guide will take you on a walking tour of the city. History oozes out of every pore of this artistic and cultural centre - the city is home to Michelangelo's 'David'. After some free time to further explore Florence, we make our way back to where this adventure began, because all roads eventually lead to Rome. This evening, enjoy an included dinner with your tour leader and fellow travellers.

Experiences

Florence guided tour: A local guide will take you on an orientation tour to introduce you to the main sights, including the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Ponte Vecchio, Piazza Della Signoria and the replica statue of David.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Optional Excursions

Taste of Tuscany: € 40

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 11: Rome: Free Day



Rome wasn't built in a day, but luckily you have a free one, in which to explore the city to your heart's content! Don't know where to start? You can always join one of the optional excursions on offer. Conquer the Capital with your tour leader to see the city's most iconic sights, including the Trevi Fountain and Pantheon, and enjoy an authentic Italian pasta lunch. Another option is a guided tour of the Vatican City which features the incredible Sistine Chapel! Later this afternoon you could join a local Roman chef on his mission to showcase the lesser known gems that form part of the city's gastronomy. The tour includes an espresso tasting as well as a visit to a prestigious bakery and a local delicatessen.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗

Accommodation

BV Oly Hotel

Hotel Ergife Palace

Hotel Marc'Aurelio

B&B Pietralata

Optional Excursions

Rome Conquer the Capital: € 50

Vatican City Guided Tour: € 75

Roman Food Tour: € 65

** Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

DAY 12: End of tour in Rome



Your Europe Escape adventure comes to an end after breakfast, so be sure to exchange details with your fellow travellers! A great way to stay in touch and to constantly relive the memories of the adventure with each other is to join your tour's Facebook group.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗