



EUROPEAN VISTAS



*Educational
Tours*

→ Discover the Global Classroom

17 or 20 DAYS

European Vistas

Germany • Monaco • France • Spain



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Romans built the Pont du Gard in the 1st century to bring fresh water to Nîmes.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 15 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (17 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 5 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Munich • Heidelberg • Paris • Barcelona • Madrid
- 4 sightseeing tours led by your tour director:
 - Monaco and Eze • Avignon • Nîmes • Carcassonne
- 3 walking tours: Munich • Paris • Barcelona
- 2 orientation tours: Nice • Madrid
- 11 visits to special attractions:
 - Dachau • Heidelberg Castle wine barrel
 - Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Perfume factory
 - Palais des Papes • Pont du Gard • Amphitheater
 - Parque Guell • Madrid Royal Palace • Prado

OPTIONAL:

- Neckar Valley
- Versailles
- Toledo
- Madrid Flamenco Evening

EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide:
 - Seville
- 1 walking tour: Seville
- 4 visits to special attractions:
 - Seville Alcázar • Seville Cathedral • Seville bullring
 - Mezquita

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Germany • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Munich

Arrival in Munich • Touch down in Munich, capital of Bavarian Germany. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of Munich • Stroll through the very heart of Munich as you pass the twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche, a long-standing symbol of the city. Arrive at Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes. Here, you can see the neo-Gothic Rathaus and the golden Mariensäule, a monument commemorating Munich's divine salvation from rampaging Swedish hordes. Then continue past the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall. On a good day, almost 30,000 liters of beer are sold here.

Day 3 Munich

Guided sightseeing of Munich • Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, the headquarters of BMW, and the fashionable Schwabing district. You'll also pass the Residenz (once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria), the Deutsches Museum, the university, and the Alte Pinakothek. Your tour concludes at Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, where you'll see the city's famed Glockenspiel.

Excursion to Dachau • Visit Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in 1935 and liberated by the Allies in April 1945. It now serves as a memorial museum.

Day 4 Munich • Heidelberg

Transfer to Heidelberg • Transfer to Heidelberg, where you'll check in to your comfortable hotel.

Day 5 Heidelberg

Guided sightseeing of Heidelberg • Become acquainted with Germany's oldest university city. The university dates back to 1386. See Heidelberg's 700-year-old *Schloss* (palace) and its famous *Fass* (wine barrel), the world's largest. From the castle's rose-colored walls and historic battlements, enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where *Homo heidelbergensis* roamed 500,000 years ago. You'll also see the town's medieval streets and Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake. Writers as diverse as Mark Twain, who once floated down the Neckar on a raft, and Goethe, who was inspired by the view from the *Schloss*, have long praised Heidelberg's enduring beauty.

Optional excursion to the Neckar Valley (seasonal) • Enjoy a meandering cruise along the Neckar River, where you'll drink in commanding views of the many Old World castles that perch along the riverbank. The excursion includes a visit to 13th-century Dilsberg Fortress. Set on a high hill overlooking the Valley, Dilsberg was once the most powerful fortress in the region as well as a favorite site of Mark Twain.

Day 6 Heidelberg • Paris

Transfer via Reims to Paris • En route to Paris, stop in Reims, a small town noted for its impressive cathedral and its well-stocked *caves*, or champagne cellars. Arrive in the City of Light in time for dinner before checking in to your hotel.

Day 7 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see

the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. You'll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon's army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries on your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here, the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

Day 8 Paris

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the *Mona Lisa*.

Walking tour of Paris • Meander through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris'

most famous university, founded in 1253. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made to build a church dedicated to Sainte-Geneviève if he survived a severe illness. You'll also explore Boulevard St. Michel and spend some time browsing the stacks at the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore, which published James Joyce's *Ulysses* in 1922. As you make your way along the Seine, you'll also have the chance to browse the literary materials sold at *les bouquinistes*, the bookstalls that sell old books, maps, art prints and postcards.

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Day 9 Paris • French Riviera

TGV to French Riviera • Board the TGV (*train à grande vitesse*, or "high-speed train") to the French Riviera, land of blue waters, waving palm trees, and sun-drenched promenades.

Day 10 French Riviera

Excursion to Monaco • Follow the coastline of the Riviera to Monaco, a tiny principality that packs wealth, royalty and the world's most famous casino into just 0.8 square miles. The Grimaldi family has ruled Monaco since 1297, making it the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the Prince's Palace and pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, site of Prince Rainier's wedding to Grace Kelly in 1956. The cathedral is also the final resting place of both Prince Rainier, who died in 2005, and Princess Grace, who was killed in a car accident in the hills of Monaco in 1982. Catch a glimpse of the stately

Monte-Carlo casino as you stroll the streets with your tour director. The casino was built in 1878 by Charles Garnier, who also designed the Paris Opera.

Visit to Eze • En route to Nice stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean. Here, you'll enjoy a guided tour of a perfume factory.

Arrival in Nice • Arrive in glamorous Nice, Queen of the Riviera. Many believe the name of the town, which was founded by Greek mariners in 350 B.C., derives from a great territorial victory realized here (the Greek word for victory is *nike*).

Orientation tour of Nice • Acquaint yourself with the palm trees and promenades of this exclusive seaside resort. Walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous as you stroll through the Vieille Ville past white-washed villas, and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

Day 11 French Riviera • Provence

Tour director-led sightseeing of Avignon and visit to the Popes' Palace • Join your tour director for a tour of Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Pope Clement V, a native of France, moved the seat of the papacy to Avignon in 1309. Stroll through the sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and his six successors resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the church's riches were stored.

Pont du Gard • See the astonishing Pont du Gard aqueduct. Dating back 2,000 years, it once supplied Roman villas with running water.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Nîmes • Your tour director will show you the best of Nîmes, the birthplace of denim. Get acquainted with the famous Roman architecture in one of Provence's most important cities. You will have the opportunity to visit an ancient Roman amphitheater, originally built to accommodate thousands of spectators. The arena is still occasionally used for bullfights! (Please note: Depending on hotel location, some groups may visit Arles, whose meandering streets once inspired van Gogh. Arles also has an ancient Roman amphitheater.)

Overnight in Provence • Painter Paul Cézanne once said of Provence: "Everywhere are the fragrances of honey, thyme, lavender, all the herbs of the nearby hills." Spend the night in this vibrant land, which also beckoned Picasso, Cocteau, and van Gogh.

Day 12 Provence • Barcelona

Transfer via tour director-led sightseeing of Carcassonne • Relive medieval times as your tour director leads you past the city's age-old ramparts (which slowly turned to ruin after falling to the Crusaders in the 13th century). Carcassonne is also home to Europe's largest and most complete medieval fortress.

Arrival in Barcelona • Arrive in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Cataluña. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931 and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

A ride on a mountain cable car can take you to new heights!



Day 13 Barcelona

Guided sightseeing of Barcelona • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí's other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain's most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus. Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city, and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral.

Visit to Parque Guell • You'll also visit Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

Walking tour of Barcelona • Barcelona, known as "La Gran Encisera" (the Great Enchantress) has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on a walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called "the most beautiful street in the world." Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

Day 14 Zaragoza • Madrid

Transfer via lunch stop in Zaragoza • A quintessential Iberian city, Zaragoza was founded by Caesar Augustus in 19 B.C. Part of the Aragón region, Zaragoza was a hub of Muslim activity in Moorish times. View the brightly colored domes of the Basilica del Pilar, whose central pillar is said to be a gift from the Virgin Mary to St. James. Also see the building that housed Zaragoza's 16th-century stock exchange.

Arrival in Madrid • Arrive in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital.

Day 15 Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your local guide introduces you to the sights of Madrid on a panoramic tour of the city. Continue with a visit to the magnificent Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 extravagant rooms, including one encased in porcelain. Marvel

at the splendor of the marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible collection of price-less frescoes and chandeliers.

Optional excursion to Toledo • This half-day optional excursion will take you to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted for centuries after the arrival of the Moors in the early 8th century. Visit the cathedral that dominates Toledo's skyline before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé. Here, you'll view *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz* (*The Burial of the Count Orgaz*), one of El Greco's supreme achievements. Then, step inside one of Toledo's synagogues and finish off your excursion with a stop at a local damascene workshop. Damascene is an intricate Muslim craft originating in Damascus and made famous in Toledo.

Day 16 Madrid

Madrid orientation tour • Your tour director shows you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters like Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madrileños* that inhabit the cafés, tascas and flea markets that pack the city. And discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

Visit to the Prado • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum's most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

Optional Flamenco Evening • To better understand the soul of Spain, choose to attend an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of complex heelwork, dramatic poses and flamboyant costume, accompanied by song and guitar playing. You will marvel at the intricate rhythms created by a dancer's steps and by the use of percussive elements such as castanets (wooden finger symbols) and clapping. (A beverage is included.)

Day 17 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 17 Madrid • Seville

Transfer via AVE train from Madrid to Seville • Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE—*Alta Velocidad Española*. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Seville, your destination for the evening.

Guided sightseeing of Seville • Hispalis, as Seville was called in Roman times, rests on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir and is Spain's only river port. See the Old Tobacco Factory, setting of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and pass the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's preeminent bullrings. Then visit Maria Luisa Park

to view the beautiful mosaics of Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Next, walk through the alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, an aesthetic treat you'll always remember. As you wind your way through this historic Jewish Quarter, notice the whitewashed houses with sand-colored trim—this is typical of Sevillian-style architecture. Top off your tour with a guided visit to the Moorish Alcázar. Built for Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century, it is one of the purest examples of *mudéjar* architecture in the world. When the Moorish Alcázar is closed (Mondays), groups will visit the Casa de Pilatos.

Guided visit to Seville's Cathedral • Columbus landed in Seville upon returning from his first voyage in 1493. Pay tribute at his grave inside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, the third largest in the world. Then climb the cathedral's Giralda Tower for a spectacular view of the city below.

Day 18 Seville

Walking tour of Seville • Meet at the base of the 12th-century Giralda Tower, Seville's best-known symbol, for a walking tour. Make your way toward the 12th-century Torre del Oro, built to defend the river entrance to Seville. Then head for the Plaza de Toros de la Real Maestranza, one of the oldest and grandest bullrings in all of Spain.

Visit to the bullring in Seville • Enter one of the most celebrated bullrings in Spain. The Plaza de Toros de la Real Maestranza took almost a hundred years to build, and countless spectators have witnessed bullfights within its walls since the middle of the 18th century. The golden sand of the *ruedo* (the main space where the matador faces the bull) is surrounded by the traditional red walls and rising rows of hard stone benches. Enter the ring, and it's easy to imagine yourself in the shoes of a world-class matador, performing in front of a crowd of 10,000 cheering spectators all anxiously awaiting your confrontation with the charging bull!

Day 19 Seville • Madrid

Transfer via Córdoba • On your way back to Madrid, make a stop in Córdoba.

Guided sightseeing of Córdoba • See the Patio de los Naranjos and visit the 8th-century Mezquita. Formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca, the Mezquita features 850 candy-cane columns. At its height, Córdoba was one of the world's great centers of learning and was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths and 70 libraries.

Arrive in Madrid • Return to Madrid for one last night in Spain before boarding your flight home in the morning.

Day 20 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.



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Itinerary subject to change.

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