



SWITZERLAND, ITALY & FRANCE



*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**

11 or 13 DAYS

Switzerland, Italy & France

Switzerland • Italy • France • Monaco



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



From world-famous man-made landmarks to picture-perfect natural scenery, breathtaking beauty awaits you!

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (11 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 4 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Venice • Vatican City • Rome • Florence
- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Lucerne • Monaco and Eze
- 1 walking tour: Rome
- 1 orientation tour: Nice
- 10 visits to special attractions: Doges' Palace • Glass-blowing demonstration • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Pisa Baptistery • Pisa Cathedral • Perfume factory

OPTIONAL:

Mount Pilatus • Swiss Folklore Event (seasonal)

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Paris
- 1 visit to a special attraction: Notre Dame Cathedral
- 1 walking tour: Paris
- TGV high-speed train

Day 1 Flight

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

Day 2 Zurich • Lucerne Region

Arrival in Zurich • Touch down in Zurich, one of Europe's principal financial and gold-trading hubs. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Transfer to the Lucerne region • Transfer via private motorcoach to the Lucerne region, where you'll check in to your hotel.

Day 3 Lucerne Region

Tour director-led sightseeing of Lucerne

• The majestic Alps provide a stunning backdrop to your tour of Lucerne, where composer Richard Wagner wrote several of his major works. You'll view the captivating Löwendenkmal (Lion Monument), a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 Paris storming of the Tuileries. According to Mark Twain, it is "the saddest and most compassionate piece of rock on earth." Stroll down narrow, winding streets and across the Kapellbrücke, a covered bridge whose history dates back to medieval days. The murals lining its walls are nearly identical to those painted in the 14th century. Be on the lookout for the colorful, hand-painted façades along the cobbled streets of the Old Town.

Optional excursion to Mount Pilatus

• This exciting half-day adventure takes you to the top of Mount Pilatus, the majestic mountain dominating the Lucerne skyline. In the summer months, travel to the foot of the mountain by boat across the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne); then ride the famous Pilatus cog railway—the steepest in the world—to the top. During the other seasons, you'll journey to the mountain base by motorcoach before ascending by cable car. After 45 spectacular minutes and 6,387 feet, you'll reach the summit and be rewarded with a splendid panorama of Lucerne, its lake and the glorious snow-capped Alps. On a clear day, you can see for more than 200 miles! (Summer season: June 2–September 30. Winter season: October 1–June 1.)

Free time in the Lucerne region • Alternatively, enjoy free time to stroll along the shores of Lake Lucerne, view the fairy-tale exteriors of local homes, or sample Switzerland's unsurpassable chocolate.

Optional Swiss Folklore Event (seasonal)

• Opt to join us for a special Swiss Folklore Evening. Enjoy a delicious fondue dinner, keeping in mind that Swiss culinary traditions draw upon those of Germany, France and Italy. Afterwards, watch a cultural show, complete with yodeling and dancing. You're guaranteed an evening of fun and laughs.

Day 4 Lucerne Region • Venice

Transfer via Verona • Transfer by way of Romeo and Juliet’s Verona, known for its couplets and Capulets. Here you can see the town’s Roman Arena, which dates back to the 1st century. You’ll also see a bronze statue of Juliet, standing below the balcony said to be the one where Juliet called to her Romeo.

Arrival in Venice • Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo.

Day 5 Venice

Guided sightseeing of Venice • Begin your tour of *La Serenissima* (the city’s nickname, meaning “the most serene”) at St. Mark’s Square, “the finest drawing room in Europe,” according to Napoleon. Allegedly buried under the altar of the basilica are St. Mark’s remains, which, in the 11th century, were smuggled out of Alexandria in a barrel of salt pork to prevent a thorough search by the city’s Muslim guards. Also see the Grand Canal and the 324-foot campanile (bell tower), whose steps were originally built so that a noble could ascend on horseback. Look for the clock where two bronze figures have been striking the hour for more than 500 years. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you’ll see why during a glass-blowing demonstration.

Visit to Doges’ Palace • Visit the grand 14th-century, pink-and-white Doges’ Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Here, you’ll stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, connecting the palace and its prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time. Casanova made a daring escape from this prison in 1756.

Day 6 Venice • Rome

Arrival in Rome • Arrive in *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800.

Day 7 Rome

Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world’s smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world’s finest pictorial images on the chapel’s ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backward from a scaffold. Next, tour St. Peter’s Basilica, erected on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo’s *Pietà*, the only sculpture he ever signed.

Guided sightseeing of Rome • Get to know Imperial Rome on a panoramic tour. Then spend time exploring the mighty Colosseum, Rome’s largest amphitheater. Its elaborate construction spanned two emperors—building began between A.D. 70 and 72 under Vespasian and was completed in A.D. 80 under Titus. Originally built to accommodate nearly 50,000 spectators, the Colosseum played host to some of the most incredible spectacles of the day, including gladiatorial combat, mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions and even dramatic performances based on classical mythology. Later, pass by the Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire.

Walking tour of Rome • As part of your walking tour of Rome, stop at the Trevi Fountain and make sure to toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome. Then view the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city, commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian around A.D. 120. This temple to “all the gods” features the second-widest dome in Rome. Then, during free time, continue to the Piazza Navona before meeting at the Spanish Steps prior to dinner.

Day 8 Rome • Florence

Transfer to Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera.

Guided sightseeing of Florence • Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. Pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria, where Michelangelo’s *David* originally stood and now the site of an impressive replica. From behind the Uffizi Palace, you will see the Ponte Vecchio, one of the city’s only bridges to survive WWII and now one of its most photographed sites. The bridge provided the Medici easy access from the Pitti Palace to the Uffizi. Continue past the Chiesa di Santa Croce, final resting place of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Next, you will visit the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, better known as the Duomo, or dome, that dominates Florence’s skyline. The dome was sculptor and architect Brunelleschi’s finest work, and the nearby campanile was designed by the painter Giotto. Look for the famous bronzed doors—Ghiberti’s legendary *Gates of Paradise*—at the Baptistery opposite the Duomo. Later, watch artisans at work at a local leather-making demonstration.

Day 9 Florence • French Riviera

Transfer via Pisa • Journey to Pisa and the Field of Miracles, where you’ll see the six stories of white marble comprising the 12th-century Leaning Tower of Pisa. It has been aslant ever since the third floor was built. This is where Galileo was said to have developed his laws of gravity. You’ll also see the adjacent marble cathedral (older even than the Leaning Tower) and neighboring baptistery.

Arrival on the French Riviera • Arrive at the spectacular coastline of the glamorous French Riviera, land of sparkling waters, waving palm trees and sun-drenched promenades.

Witness the grandeur of the Alpine scenery.



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 them the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the royal 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 the prince 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 Opéra.

Visit to Eze • En route back 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.

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 whitewashed villas and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

Day 11 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 11 French Riviera • Paris

TGV to Paris • Board the TGV (*train à grande vitesse*, or "fast train") to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

Walking tour of Paris • Your walking tour of Paris centers around the Île de la Cité, considered the birthplace of Paris. This island, surrounded entirely by the Seine, has been inhabited since the 3rd century B.C. and was the political and religious center of France for centuries. Île de la Cité houses three of Paris' most important buildings: Notre Dame Cathedral; the Conciergerie, Paris' first prison; and St. Chapelle, the Gothic Catholic church.

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 12 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 as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

Day 13 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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