



VIENNA, VENICE & PARIS



*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**

10 or 12 DAYS

Vienna, Venice & Paris

Austria • Italy • France



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



The brilliance of Europe is revealed in the vibrant gardens of Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace and the colorful pali of the Venetian gondoliers.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension); plus 1 night couchette accommodations
- European breakfast and dinner daily (lunch instead of dinner on Day 7)
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 5 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Vienna • Salzburg • Venice • Florence • Paris
- 1 walking tour: Paris
- 2 orientation tours: Vienna • Innsbruck
- 7 visits to special attractions: Schönbrunn Palace • Doges' Palace • Duomo • Glass-blowing demonstration • Leather-making demonstration • Notre Dame Cathedral • Louvre
- Whisper headsets

OPTIONAL: Versailles

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Blois • Chenonceau
- 3 visits to special attractions: Blois • Chenonceau • Chartres Cathedral

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Austria • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Vienna

Arrival in Vienna • Touch down in musical Vienna. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Vienna orientation tour • Welcome to the lovely capital of Austria. Pass the city's world-famous Opera House and the 450-foot-high, Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, a venerable symbol of the city. Also see the Sacher Hotel—the esteemed chocolate Sachertorte was invented here, by order of Prince Metternich.

Day 3 Vienna

Guided sightseeing of Vienna • The residence of the imperial court for six centuries, Vienna is marked with the seal of the Habsburgs, a family who once ruled over half of Europe. In-depth sightseeing takes you down the Ring, a series of wide boulevards commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef in 1857. Ride past the Parliament, the flower-adorned Rathaus (Town Hall), and the Hofburg, where the powerful Habsburg dynasty ruled until 1918.

Visit to Schönbrunn Palace • You'll also visit beautiful Schönbrunn Palace, where Marie Antoinette (the most famous of Empress Maria Theresa's 16 children) spent her childhood. When the six-year-old Mozart played for the empress inside the palace, he told Marie Antoinette, "I'll marry you when I'm grown up!" After viewing the elegant interior, stroll through the palace's beautifully landscaped gardens.

Day 4 Salzburg • Tyrol Region

Guided sightseeing of Salzburg • Your local guide will introduce you to Salzburg, a town known for its cobblestone streets and famous cafés. You might also recognize Salzburg as the backdrop for *The Sound of Music*. Journey through the Old Town and past the Residenz, once home to Salzburg's prince-bishops. Walk by the birthplace of Mozart. The famed composer is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave somewhere outside of Vienna.

Overnight in the Tyrol • Your motorcoach winds its way below rugged, snow-capped mountains as you arrive at your hotel in the spectacular Austrian province of Tyrol. This is the mecca of winter sports, where skiers, snowboarders and ice mountaineers come to test their nerve on towering Alpine peaks.

Day 5 Innsbruck • Venice

Innsbruck orientation tour • This morning, get acquainted with the lovely streets of Innsbruck. Located at the intersection of several Alpine passes, Innsbruck is the capital of the beautiful Austrian province of Tyrol and the site of two Winter Olympics (1964 and 1976). **Arrival in Venice** • Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo.

Day 6 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 7 Florence • Night Train

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.

Night train to Paris • Tonight, enjoy couchette accommodations aboard your overnight train bound for Paris.

Day 8 Paris

Arrival in Paris • Disembark in Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine, from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. 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.

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

Walking tour of Paris • Our walking tour takes in the chic Opéra district and the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, famous for its haute couture boutiques. Stroll through the Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. During the Revolution, this was the location of Joseph Guillotin's famous machine; the next Louis, Marie Antoinette and many others were beheaded here. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

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*.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here, the Sun King held



The Eiffel Tower has become one of the most recognizable structures in the world.

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 10 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 10 Transfer to Loire Valley

Photo stop at Chambord • There will also be time to snap a photo of Chambord, the largest of all the Loire Valley châteaux. It is widely believed that Leonardo da Vinci, an artist with whom François I was personally acquainted, had a hand in this castle's design.

Guided sightseeing of Blois • Located 112 miles southwest of Paris, this small town welcomes a half-million visitors every year. Your guide will regale you with tales about the history of Blois, once a popular retreat for French royalty. You'll visit the Château de Blois. Be sure to check out the renowned spiral staircase and impressive stained glass windows.

Arrival in the Loire Valley • Arrive in the beautiful Loire Valley, where you will spend the night.

Day 11 Loire Valley • Paris

Transfer via Chartres • In Chartres, visit Europe's grandest Gothic (13th-century) cathedral, which boasts the world's finest stained-glass windows.

Guided sightseeing of Chenonceau • Your excursion into the Playground of the Kings includes a visit to the most romantic château in the region: the exquisite Château de Chenonceau. Beginning in the 1500s with Catherine Bohier, Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Médici, an extraordinary succession of women each had a strong hand in the design of the castle.

Overnight in Paris • Return to Paris, where you'll spend the night.

Day 12 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.



ITN0309VVP/IX
Itinerary subject to change.

Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours

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