

Education
First



College Study
Tours

THE GRAND TOUR



THE GRAND TOUR

28 OR 31 DAYS

England • France • Belgium • The Netherlands • Germany • Switzerland • Austria • Italy • Greece *Extension includes Turkey*

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare, bus transfers, Eurostar high-speed train, night ferry, (cruise ship with extension)
- 25 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms; 1 night ferry accommodations (3 nights cabin accommodations with extension)
- 14 dinners (17 dinners and 3 lunches with extension)
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 12 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides
- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director
- 6 walking tours
- 20 visits to special attractions: Notre Dame Cathedral • Louvre • Anne Frank House • Neuschwanstein • Dachau • Salt mines • Doges' Palace • Glass-blowing demonstration • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Assisi Basilica • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum • Forum Romanum • Roman ruins at Pompeii • Meteora monastery • Delphi site • Delphi Museum • Acropolis

OPTIONAL:

- Windsor Castle
- Versailles
- Volendam and Zaanse Schans (seasonal)
- Mount Pilatus (seasonal)
- Greek Evening



Discover the intricacies of Florence's Duomo, a Renaissance masterpiece, on your grand tour through Europe.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Great Britain • Relax as you fly overnight across the Atlantic.

Day 2 London

Arrival in London • Touch down in London, Europe's largest city. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on today's walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. These shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for "city of the lake." Walk along the Strand and see the spot considered to be London's geographic center; all measurements of distances to London end here. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where you'll enjoy watching street performers (or "buskers") amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

Day 3 London

Guided sightseeing of London • A local guide leads you on a tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square, which is sometimes called "Little America" because it's the site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived. Continue to Hyde Park Corner, located at the southeast corner of Hyde Park, one of London's largest parks. At bustling Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big-city displays, before heading to Trafalgar Square. Pass Speaker's Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his or her mind. Snap a photo of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London's South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for a sighting of St. Paul's Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

Optional excursion to Windsor • Step back into history on today's half-day optional excursion to one of England's most regal palaces; Windsor. Join a local guide on your visit

to the Royal Family's retreat, built by William the Conqueror in 1070. The castle has undergone many changes over the years as each new monarch added a tower here or a wing there. Priceless objects are found in the State Apartments, ranging from paintings by Rubens to Henry VIII's sword and suit of armor. You will also see Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St. George's Chapel, the final resting place of many monarchs. Enjoy free time in the area before returning to London. (Please note: St. George's Chapel is closed on Sunday mornings for church services).

Day 4 London

Free time in London • Enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Cafe or Madame Tussauds wax museum, take a cruise down the Thames or look for Sherlock Holmes' house on Baker Street.

Day 5 London • Paris

Transfer via the Eurostar from London to Paris • In London, board the high-speed Eurostar, an 18-car train that runs through the tunnel connecting Britain with continental Europe. Enjoy state-of-the-art technology as you glide under the English Channel to France.

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

Day 6 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.



Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional half-day 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, admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen, and enjoy free time for lunch. (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. Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

Day 7 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. It's the perfect place to pick up some authentic souvenirs!

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 8 Paris • Amsterdam

Transfer to Amsterdam via tour director-led sightseeing of Brussels • Crossing into Belgium, travel to Brussels. The city is an exciting mix of the traditional (houses and cobblestone streets hundreds of years old) and the modern (elegant glass and steel skyscrapers housing international banks and businesses).

Walking tour of Amsterdam • Step into a fairy tale as you marvel at this city of 1,200 bridges and 160 canals. The capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam is also an important commercial, historic, cultural and artistic center. Amsterdam was once home to Rembrandt, whose residence remains open to visitors today, and boasts friendly cafés and world-class museums, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Jewish History Museum.

Day 9 Amsterdam

Guided sightseeing of Amsterdam • A local guide introduces you to Amsterdam's most famous sights on a walk through the city. Pass the Westerkerk (West Church), where the remains of Rembrandt and his son are buried. The church also held the wedding of Queen Beatrix in 1966. Continue to lively Dam Square, a dam around the Amstel River created in the 13th century to prevent the Zuiderzee Sea from flooding the city. Now this bustling tourist area boasts the impressive Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch Royal Family; the National Monument; and the Nieuwekerk (New Church), where members of the Dutch Royal Family are officially inaugurated. See the Begijnhof, a lovely 14th-century courtyard, built as a sanctuary for the Begijnhofites, a Catholic sisterhood. Walk across the lifting bridge to Waterlooplein. Marvel at the views of the Amstel River as you cross the Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge). Although "magere" means skinny in Dutch and the bridge was quite thin when built, rumor says the bridge was actually named for the Magere sisters, living on opposite sides of the river, who built the bridge to make it easier to visit each other. Finally, you will see Rembrandtplein, a square packed with terrace cafés, diamond shops, nightclubs and hotels.

Visit to the Anne Frank House • Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944 and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

Optional excursion to Volendam and Zaanse Schans

• Today, enjoy an optional half-day excursion to the heart of the Dutch countryside. Visit the picturesque fishing village of Volendam and the living and working neighborhood of Zaanse Schans, re-created to look like an old Dutch village. Make your way down the winding, cobblestone streets, past windmills, charming shops and crooked houses. Enjoy demonstrations on cheese and clog making. (Please note: This optional is available from March 15 to September 30.)

Day 10 Amsterdam • Heidelberg

Transfer to Heidelberg • Travel to Heidelberg, the heart of Romantic Germany.

Tour director-led 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 historic battlements, you'll 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.

Day 11 Heidelberg • Lucerne Region

Transfer via the Black Forest and Rhine Falls • Travel by way of the legendary Black Forest (Schwarzwald), which was once the province of wolves, hermits and monks. It was in these dark woods that the Brothers Grimm set some of their most classic tales, including *Hansel and Gretel*. Then see the thundering Rhine Falls, which Goethe referred to as "the source of the ocean."

Transfer to Switzerland • You'll have your first views of the snow-capped Alps as you journey to Switzerland. You'll spend the night in the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne) region, perhaps the most picturesque part of Switzerland.

Day 12 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 facades along the cobbled streets of the Old Town.

Optional excursion to Mount Pilatus • This exciting half-day optional adventure takes you to the top of Mount Pilatus, the majestic mountain backdrop of Lucerne. In the summer season, travel to the foot of the mountain by boat across Lake Lucerne then ride the famous Pilatus cog railway—the steepest in the world—to the top. 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! (Please note: Mount Pilatus can be cold, even in summer; warm clothes and appropriate shoes are recommended. This option is available May 16 through September 30.)

Day 13 Lucerne Region • Munich

Excursion to Neuschwanstein Castle • Head for the Bavarian Alps to visit one of "Mad" King Ludwig's fairytale castles. Explore Neuschwanstein, the real-life model for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle. Learn about the life and mysterious death of the young king, one of Europe's most eccentric rulers. King Ludwig so preferred dreams over reality that his servants could address him only from behind a screen. In fact, the original plans for the castle were drawn up by a theater set designer, not an architect.

Arrival in Munich • Experience the Gemütlichkeit of Munich, capital of Bavarian Germany.

Day 14 Munich

Guided sightseeing of Munich • Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, BMW's headquarters 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, home of the city's famed Glockenspiel. "Munich" derives from the city's German name, München (little monk), so named because the original settlement bordered a monastery.

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

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.

Day 15 Munich

Guided excursion to Salzburg and the salt mines • Journey to the picturesque village of Berchtesgaden. Here you'll take a fascinating underground ride via train, boat and wooden slides through the 450-year-old salt mines. Then tour musical Salzburg, city of Mozart and backdrop for *The Sound*

of Music. (When the salt mines are closed, enjoy instead an extended tour of Salzburg—including a rack railway ride to the Hohensalzburg, the largest completely preserved fortress in central Europe.)

Day 16 Munich • Venice

Transfer via 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). Have a taste of the local cuisine during your midday stop here, with free time for lunch.

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

Day 17 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 18 Venice • Florence

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

Day 19 Florence

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, 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 20 Florence • Rome

Transfer via Assisi • Stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare. On your visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints through Giotto's artful frescoes.

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

Day 21 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 22 Rome • Sorrento

Transfer to Sorrento • Experience the beauty of Italy's favorite resort, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Day 23 Sorrento • Night Ferry

Guided sightseeing of Pompeii • Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on an excursion to Pompeii, one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. When neighboring Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see the ruins of villas, ancient temples and Stabian Baths. Nearby is the beautiful Bay of Naples, known for its magnificent views of the surrounding islands, capes and mountains.

Night ferry to Greece • Board a night ferry in Brindisi. Enjoy cabin accommodations as you sail across the Ionian Sea to Greece.

Day 24 Meteora Region

Arrival in Igoumenitsa • Disembark in Igoumenitsa, a hub for ferries and ships traveling among the Greek islands and the ports of Italy.

Guided sightseeing of Meteora Region and monasteries • A local guide introduces you to the Meteora Region, home to many examples of Byzantine art and architecture. Renowned for its many cave-like monasteries built directly into the hillsides, Meteora draws visitors and missionaries yearning for a glimpse of the ancient life of the pious recluse. Also visit one of the Meteora monasteries, which were used as retreats during troubled times. Spend the night in the Meteora Region.

Day 25 Meteora Region • Athens

Transfer to Delphi • Journey to Delphi, home of the mystical Oracle.

Guided sightseeing of Delphi • As you tour Delphi, ponder the mysteries of what lies in your future, as did Greece's ancient military leaders—who left gifts for the Oracle in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the god communicated with mortals. Your visit concludes with a stop at the Delphi Museum, whose collection boasts many artifacts dating back to 550 B.C., reminiscent of the mythical past of ancient Greece.

Arrival in Athens • Continue to Athens, Cradle of Democracy and birthplace of Western Civilization.

Day 26 Athens

Guided sightseeing of Athens • An expert local guide introduces you to the antiquities of Athens. Climb the Acropolis to view the majestic Parthenon, perhaps the world's greatest architectural feat. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess (her wings were clipped to keep her from ever deserting the city). Athens is named after Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom. After seeing the Presidential Guard in their traditional costumes, pass the stadium where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896, as well as Omonia and Syntagma squares. During free time you may have later, use your ticket from this morning's sightseeing to explore other sights in Athens. Visit the Agora, ancient Athens' political, economic and commercial center, which holds the remains of the Temple of Hephaistos, begun in 449 B.C. You might also visit the Athenian Cemetery, a who's who of ancient Athens. It contains impressive family tombs, where statesmen, warriors and authors were laid to rest.

Day 27 Athens

Walking tour of Athens • Get acquainted with the endearing Plaka district. Stroll past Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, built to honor the most powerful of all Greek gods—construction began in 515 B.C.

Optional Greek Evening • Tonight, opt to experience Greek culture during an evening of festive entertainment and cuisine. Witness the fancy footwork of traditional Greek dancing accompanied by musicians playing on bouzoukis, stringed instruments unique to Greece. Music and dancing have long played a central role in Greek culture with over 4,000 dances from all regions of the country. Experience firsthand this thrilling element of Greek culture!

Day 28 Home

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

EXTENSION

Days 28-31 Island Cruise

Cruise extension (seasonal) • Your group can plan to stay for a three-day cruise of the beautiful whitewashed isles of Greece. Your ports of call include picturesque Mykonos, Patmos, Kusadasi, Heraklion and Santorini. The cruise line offers special optional excursions at these ports, such as a visit to Ephesus in Kusadasi, where you will explore the ruins of Ancient Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary, where it is said she lived her last years. In between, you'll have plenty of time to enjoy life on board the ship. Free-time options while you're at sea include shopping, games, fitness activities, swimming and sunning. (Please note that the cruise is seasonal and the itinerary is subject to change.) Fly home from Athens on Day 31.

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

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