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## **CLASSIC EUROPE TOUR (14 DAYS) - 2012**

**Brussels, Volendam, Cologne, Innsbruck, Verona, Venice, Florence, Rome, Pisa, Milan, Mount Titlis, Lucerne, Interlaken, Jungfrauoch, Paris**

DAY 1: London – Dover - Ferry – Calais – Brussels – The Netherlands

This morning, at the check-in point, you will meet your Tour Manager and join the coach for a leisurely drive from London to Dover port, to board the ferry for the short channel crossing to Calais. Upon arrival, we proceed through Belgium. We first visit the city of Brussels, where on our orientation tour we see the Grand Place, the Mannekin Pis statue and the Atomium (photo stop). Later we drive to The Netherlands and check into our hotel for a two-night stay. (Dinner)

DAY 2: The Netherlands: Zaanse Schans, Volendam, Amsterdam

Today, we visit a working windmill village - Zaanse Schans. With its traditional green painted houses, warehouses and windmills the open air museum, gives the feeling of having stepped back in time. Later, we drive through the flat landscape, to visit the picturesque village of Volendam. Continuing on, we visit the Madurodam Model Village to see miniature Holland (or Keukenhof Gardens for arrivals in Holland between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>). After dinner, you may either rest at the hotel or join the *additional excursion - Amsterdam by Night Tour*. We proceed to the cosmopolitan city of Amsterdam for a canal cruise through the city's complex system of waterways. Later we return to our hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 3: The Netherlands - Cologne – Rhine Cruise - Mannheim / Frankfurt area

Proceed east across The Netherlands and into Germany. Joining the autobahn, we arrive at the famous city of Cologne where you can marvel Europe's largest Gothic twin spire cathedral. Continuing our drive into the Rhine valley we board a cruise ship for an unforgettable trip along the River Rhine. Admire the majestic views, mountain top fairy tale castles and fortresses from a bygone era. Late evening check into our hotel for an overnight stop. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 4: Mannheim / Frankfurt area – Innsbruck

Depart this morning for Austria. Our journey takes us through the spectacular region of the Bavarian Alps, arriving at Wattens, where we visit the famous Swarovski Crystal Worlds, for a tour through the kaleidoscope of senses and to see sparkling crystal artworks by famous artists. Visit the Crystal Worlds Shop displaying a unique selection of Swarovski products. We then proceed to Innsbruck, the capital of the Tyrol region. Enjoy this charming town of green domes and red roofs - see the Hofburg and the Goldenes Dachl. Later we check into our hotel for an overnight stay. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 5: Innsbruck – Verona - Venice / Padova area

This morning we enjoy some spectacular scenery as we drive across Europabrücke, one of Europe's highest bridges, winding our way through the Brenner pass to cross the Italian border. We leave behind the mountains for sunny Italy, to briefly visit Shakespeare's Verona - see Juliet's balcony and the Roman Arena. We then drive to Venice, the city of unparalleled beauty and romantic gondolas. Our tour starts with a boat ride to St. Mark's Square – the most elegant square in the world, to see the Bridge of Sighs, the Doges Palace and the Basilica di San Marco. Here we also have a chance to watch the Venetian glass blowers at work and maybe buy a souvenir for the family. Late evening check into our hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 6: Venice / Padova area – Florence – Rome

Today we depart for Florence. Watch the amazing scenery change as we cross the Apennines and the gentle hilly countryside of Tuscany to reach Florence. On arrival in the city of the Medicis, we will visit Piazzale Michelangelo to enjoy one of the best views of this renaissance city across the River Arno. You then have some free time to wander around this city, where traffic is banned from the historic centre, admiring its timeless beauty. Later we continue our journey to the 'Eternal City', where we check into our hotel for a two-night stay. After dinner, you may either rest in your hotel or join the ***additional excursion - Rome by Night Tour***. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 7: Rome

This morning, we meet our expert local guide who will show us the splendours of St. Peter's Basilica, a renaissance masterpiece. Later, we take in other ancient sights – Piazza Venezia, the Roman Forum, which was the political centre of the Roman Empire, Circus Maximus. We also visit the Colosseum; the largest ever built in the Roman Empire and one of the greatest works of Roman architecture and engineering, and the spectacular Trevi Fountain, where you may make a wish. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 8: Rome – Pisa/ Florence area

This morning, you have free time or join the ***additional excursion – Visit to Sistine Chapel***, where we meet our local guide who will show us the splendours of the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel. Later we depart for Pisa, where we visit the Field of Miracles. Here you can marvel at the marble Cathedral in the Pisan

Romanesque style, the Baptistery, and one of the wonders of the world, the legendary Leaning Tower. Late evening check into our hotel for an overnight stop. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 9: Florence area - Milan – Lake Lugano area – Switzerland

After breakfast, we proceed to Milan, the cultural and economic hub of Italy. Here, you have free time to explore the historic centre of the city – see the famous Duomo (Cathedral), one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Italy, La Scala Opera House and the Castello Sforzesco. Leaving Milan, we continue on the autostradas, before crossing the Swiss border, passing spectacular scenery around the lake regions of Como and Lugano. We make a brief photo stop near Lake Lugano, before driving north through the Gotthard tunnel. We arrive at our hotel late evening, and check in for a three-night stay. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 10: Switzerland: Mount Titlis - Lucerne

Driving through the Swiss alpine region and the winding mountain roads to the valley of Engelberg, we start our ascent to board the world's first revolving cable car, reaching the peak of 10,000 feet and the highest viewpoint in central Switzerland – Mount Titlis (weather permitting). Visit the Glacier Grotto or enjoy a breathtaking panorama from the sun terrace. In the afternoon, we begin our descent, passing the glaciers and thawing ice, which create majestic waterfalls. Later we visit the town of Lucerne, to see the Chapel Bridge and the Lion Monument. This evening, why not join the **additional excursion - Lake Lucerne Cruise**. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 11: Switzerland: Interlaken – Jungfrauoch

Today, we first drive to the picturesque town of Interlaken, the scene of many “Bollywood” films, where you have some time to browse through the shops or join the **additional excursion - Trummelbach Falls**. From there a short drive brings us to Lauterbrunnen, where we board the train for the scenic journey to Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe, the highest railway station in Europe at 3,454 metres (weather permitting). Visit the Ice Palace with ice sculptures or enjoy the panoramic views from the Sphinx Terrace. Early evening we begin our descent and return to our hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 12: Switzerland – Paris

Early morning we leave the Swiss Alps behind us. Once into France, we join the super fast highways, driving past vineyards and mustard fields. Continue onto Paris, one of the most exciting and popular cities of Europe, renowned for its fashion, perfumes, and of course the most talked about French champagne and wines. On arrival in Paris, we check into our hotel for a two nights stay. After dinner you may either rest at the hotel or join the **additional excursion – River Seine Cruise & Paris by Night Tour** (\*). Enjoy an amazing cruise on the River Seine - admire the spectacular facades from your covered boat. Later on our Paris by Night Tour we will see the main sights illuminated. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 13: Paris

Today you have the choice of two exciting day tours;

### Paris City Tour

This morning, on our orientation tour of Paris, we will be introduced to the main sights of this beautiful city: Hotel des Invalides, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, and the Opera. Later we proceed to Versailles, to visit the magnificent Gardens at the Palace of Versailles, the former residence of the famous "Sun King". After dinner you may either rest at the hotel or join us for an exciting *optional Lido Paris Cabaret show*. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

OR

### Disneyland Paris Theme Park

This morning we drive to the famous Disneyland Paris Theme Park where a day of excitement awaits the entire family. Meet your favourite Disney characters, watch amazing shows, ride the hair-raising "Space Mountain: Mission 2" roller coaster, enter Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril and find yourself in a runaway wagon speeding through the ancient ruins. After dinner you may either rest at the hotel or join us for an exciting *optional Lido Paris Cabaret show*. (Breakfast, Dinner)

## DAY 14: Paris – Calais - Ferry – Dover – London

Today we visit the third floor (\*\*) of the Eiffel Tower to witness a spectacular panoramic view of the city. Later, you have some time to browse through the shops, or join the *additional excursion – Visit to Louvre Museum*, where you can see the famous Mona Lisa painting by Leonardo Da Vinci. Next we visit a French perfumery for some last minute shopping. Early afternoon we depart and journey north for Calais to board the ferry for the return channel crossing. On arrival at Dover port, we proceed to London, where the tour ends, and its time to say farewell to all the friends you have made on tour. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Note (\*): Please note that the *additional excursion – River Seine Cruise & Paris by Night Tour* may be operated on either Day 12 or Day 13 as per convenience.

Note (\*\*): The reservation for the visit to the Eiffel Tower is subject to availability, and could be up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor or 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

## **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

**BRUSSELS:** Orientation Tour including the Grand Place, Mannekin Pis and Atomium (photo stop)

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Visit Zaanse Schans, Volendam and Madurodam Model Village (or Keukenhof Gardens between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>)

**COLOGNE:** Visit the Gothic Cathedral – "Dom"

**RHINE VALLEY:** Scenic drive and River Rhine Cruise

**WATTENS:** Visit to Swarovski Crystal Worlds

**INNSBRUCK:** Orientation Tour including the Hofburg and Goldenes Dachl

**VERONA:** See Juliet's balcony and the Roman Arena

**VENICE:** Boat ride to St. Mark's Square, visit St. Mark's Square - see the Bridge of Sighs, Doges Palace and the Basilica di San Marco

**FLORENCE:** View of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo and free time in historic centre of the city

**ROME:** Guided City Tour including a visit to St. Peter's Basilica, see Piazza Venezia and the Roman Forum and Circus Maximus, visit the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain

**PISA:** Visit Field of Miracles – see Cathedral, Baptistry and Leaning Tower

**MILAN:** Free time in historic centre of the city

**SWITZERLAND:** Cable car ride to Mount Titlis, visit to Lucerne and Interlaken, and train ride to Jungfraujoeh - Top of Europe

**PARIS:**

**Paris City Tour:** Orientation Tour of Paris, visit to the Gardens at the Palace of Versailles, third floor (\*\*\*) of the Eiffel Tower, French Perfumery

OR

**Disneyland Paris Theme Park:** Visit to Disneyland Paris – one day unlimited pass, third floor (\*\*\*) of the Eiffel Tower, French Perfumery

#### **YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:**

- 13 nights in a First Class Hotel with private facilities
- 13 Vegetarian Buffet Breakfasts, 12 Indian Vegetarian Lunches (Hot / Packed) (1 additional Lunch on Day 13 for Paris City Tour passengers) and 13 Indian Vegetarian / Non Vegetarian Dinners
- Meal Plan is indicated at the bottom of your daily itinerary: Breakfast, Indian Vegetarian / Non Vegetarian Dinner, Indian Vegetarian Lunch (Hot / Packed)
- Return channel crossings by Ferry
- All coach transportation by executive cruise liners from departure to tour termination points
- All sightseeing, entrances and excursions as mentioned in the Itinerary
- Services of Bi-lingual "Taj Tours" Tour Manager throughout the Tour

#### **TOUR DEPARTURES (2012):**

**Tour Code: 14D – CLA** (out Mondays – return Sundays)

April	09, 16, 23, 30
May	07, 14, 21, 28
June	04, 11, 18, 25
July	02, 09, 16, 23, 30
August	06, 13, 20, 27
September	03, 10, 17, 24

**ADDITIONAL EXCURSIONS (GBP):**

<b>Excursions</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child (2 – 11 years)</b>
Amsterdam by Night with Canal Cruise	£20.00	£15.00
Rome by Night Tour & visit to Vatican Museums	£40.00	£35.00
Lake Lucerne Cruise & Trummelbach Falls	£30.00	£20.00
River Seine Cruise & Paris by Night Tour	£20.00	£15.00
Supplement for visit to Disneyland Paris Theme Park on Day 13	£25.00	£25.00
Lido Paris Cabaret Show	£90.00	£90.00
Visit to Louvre Museum	£12.00	£7.00

**TOUR PRICES (GBP):**

	<b>TOUR PRICES</b>
Adult	£1,575.00
Child 2 – 11 yrs	£1,145.00
Infant 0 – 23 months	£250.00
Single Person	£1,975.00

**Early Bird Discount:**

Book 8 weeks in advance and get **£50.00 off the tour price or 1 night pre-tour and 1 night post-tour in London** per adult or child.

**Extra Special Discount:**

Book before 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 with deposit payment, and get **pre-tour Panoramic London Sightseeing Tour and Paris by Night Tour free of cost.**

Adult Rate is based on 2/3 Adults (12+ years) sharing Twin / Triple Rooms

Child (2-11 years) must share a Room with 2 Adults

Infant price is for Coach Seat only

Discounts available for groups of 15+ passengers