

LONDON – PARIS – ITALY, 14 DAYS

Day 1: Travel to Europe

Fly from your home airport to London.

[In-flight meals]

Day 2: London

Transfer to your hotel and check in. During your free time, relax or begin your London experience with a visit to famous “Harrod’s” department store or a stroll through Kensington Gardens following the footsteps of Princess Diana.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a pub crawl.

[B]

Day 3: London

During our city sightseeing tour this morning, our local guide will show you the pomp and pageantry London is famous for: see St. Paul’s and Westminster cathedrals, the Tower and Tower Bridge, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament as well as Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guards.

The afternoon is at leisure; you may want to go shopping on Oxford Street, or go and see a show in one of the many West End Theaters.

[B]

Day 4: London * Paris

Board the sleek Eurostar train this morning that will whisk you underneath the English Channel to Paris in less than three hours.

Upon arrival at the City of Lights, check into your hotel before exploring the monuments and museums this afternoon. Possibilities include visiting the Louvre housing Europe’s largest museum, the Musee D’Orsay featuring impressionist art, or striding down posh Champs Elysées.

[B]

Day 5: Paris

Our local art historian shows you unforgettable Parisian landmarks, including the hunchback “Quasimodo’s” Notre Dame Cathedral. See Place de la Concorde, where the Guillotine once stood, and the Eiffel Tower’s steel lacework. We’ll also visit a local perfume center.

The afternoon is free to do further exploring on your own.

Tonight, you may want to see a Cabaret Show at the renowned Moulin Rouge.

[B]

Day 6: Paris * Overnight Train to Venice

Join us for a tour of Versailles this morning, the palace of Louis XIV; see the Royal Chapel, the Hall of Mirrors, and the fabulous gardens and fountains.

Tonight it’s time to board our express train to Italy.

[B]

Day 7: Venice

Upon arrival in the “most romantic city in Europe”, transfer to your hotel before crossing the Grand Canal and embarking on today’s walking tour to the Bridge of Sighs, along a labyrinth of alleys and old-world bridges converging on St. Mark’s Square. Stop at a Murano glass-blowing workshop and watch famous Venetian glass being made.

Leisure time may find you on a romantic gondola gliding through an intricate maze of canals beneath arched bridges and 12th and 18th century marble palaces.

[B]

Day 8: Venice

On your free day in Venice, you may want to take a boat ride to the islands of Burano and Torcello, or visit the Accademia Museum or the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

[B]

Day 9: Florence

Our luxury motor coach will take you through the fertile Po Valley and across the Apennine Mountains to Florence, the cradle of Italian Renaissance. AESU's local art expert describes the Renaissance architecture, art and life under the rule of the Medici dynasty. See the Duomo, Giotto's bell tower and the Gates of Paradise. Later, visit a local leather workshop.

[B]

Day 10: Florence * Pisa

Today is dedicated to Florence’s art treasures: visit the Accademia housing Michelangelo’s David this morning. Later, explore the Uffizi Galleries, probably the best art gallery in Italy.

In the late afternoon, we will take an excursion to Pisa. Admire the Duomo, the Baptistery and the Leaning Tower – the most photographed monument in Italy.

Back in Florence, you may want to go out to a lively night club.

[B]

Day 11: Rome

Travel past Chianti vineyards along the Highway of the Sun to the Eternal City of Rome. Dinner tonight will be a mouth-watering Roman Banquet complete with Italian specialties and wine.

[B, D]

Day 12: Rome * Vatican City

See the historical ruins of the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. Then on to Vatican City – the world’s smallest state – where we will visit St. Peter’s Basilica housing Michelangelo’s magnificent “Pieta”. In the afternoon, tour the Vatican Museums featuring the Sistine Chapel.

[B]

Day 13: Rome

Enjoy a walk through Rome and visit Piazza Navona, and stop to toss three coins in the Trevi Fountain to ensure your return to Rome.

Catch up on your souvenir shopping during your free afternoon.

[B]

Day 14: Travel Home

Your land program ends with breakfast this morning; transfer to the airport and board your flight home with grand memories to last a lifetime.

[B, In-flight meals]