

RENSELAER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION(RAA)

CLASSIC EUROPE

2024 GRADUATION TOUR

US DEPARTURE DATE: MAY 31, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: JUNE 1, 2024

ROME RETURN DATE: JUNE 10, 2024

ATHENS RETURN DATE: JUNE 15, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$3,825



START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Student:

Congratulations on your approaching graduation!

Have you thought about how you will celebrate this milestone? RPI is pleased to announce a very special travel opportunity: The Classic Europe Tour. Both fun and fascinating, this trip is a wonderful reward for your years of hard work.

The Rensselaer Alumni Association, in conjunction with AESU, a tour operator specializing in travel for 21-35 year olds, invite you on a comprehensive tour of Europe open exclusively to graduating seniors of RPI and select peer institutions.

The 11-day, 5-country trip, with an optional 5-day extension to Southern Italy & Greece, includes all of Europe's 'must-see' sites, such as Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the Parthenon. Past travelers have commented "This trip was amazing - I saw the most beautiful sites," and "Thank you for a great summer. Not only was this a vacation, it was a wake-up call for me to see the world!"

Education does not stop at graduation; rather, it is a lifelong process and travel provides unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning. On the Classic Europe tour, you will be able to visit exciting destinations, learn more about our world, relax and unwind on a great holiday, and renew ties to Rensselaer while celebrating with fellow graduates.

We look forward to you exploring the world with us and welcoming you to our family of alumni!

Sincerely,

Meghan L. Moulder
Meghan L. Moulder '10
President

Dawn McCarthy
Dawn McCarthy
Director of Alumni Relations

Visit our website www.aesu.com/rpi-gradtrip for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory.

(Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.)

If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or visit this link:
<https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/get-a-quote.html?partner=AESU3922>

CLASSIC EUROPE



11 DAYS PLUS AN OPTIONAL
5-DAY EXTENSION TO SOUTHERN ITALY & GREECE

COUNTRIES VISITED:
ENGLAND | FRANCE | ITALY | VATICAN CITY | GREECE

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

11-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 9 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Intra-Europe transportation by air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
 - Eurostar train from London to Paris
- High speed TGV train from Paris to Southern France

Meals

- 13 meals: 9 breakfasts, 4 three-course specialty dinners

Activities & Admissions

- London welcome orientation and pub crawl
 - 1-day group tube pass in London
- Guided tours in London, Paris and Rome, all led by local historians
 - Seine River cruise in Paris
- Paris travel card with unlimited access to public transportation system
- Paris Museum Pass (includes access to over 70 museums and monuments in Paris including the Louvre, Musée Picasso and more...)
 - The beaches of the French Riviera
 - Tuscan experience
 - Chianti wine tasting
- Roma Pass (includes access to the Roman Forum, Colosseum, plus additional free or discounted admissions to sights in Rome. Unlimited access to public transportation.)
 - See St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City

5-Day Optional Extension Transportation and Lodging

- 5 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower - including overnight on ship from Italy to Greece (4-share cabins)
- All intra-Europe transportation by air-conditioned motor coach and overnight ship as per itinerary

Meals

- 9 meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 three-course specialty dinners

Activities & Admissions

- Guided tours in Pompeii and Athens, led by local historians
 - Admission to Pompeii archeological site
 - Bike rental on the Isle of Poros
 - Greek Island stay
 - Toga party
 - Admission to Acropolis

Optional Excursions

- (not included in land package price):
- Paris, France - French Perfumery and Museum visit, French cabaret show
 - French Riviera - Excursion to Monte Carlo & Cannes (not offered during Grand Prix)
 - Poros, Greece - Watersports (16-day tour only)



CLASSIC EUROPE ITINERARY

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Reward yourself for all your hard work with this ultimate escape. The Classic Europe grad trip offers 16 days of exploration, adventure, and insight into many of Europe's most popular and stunning countries. This tour provides something for everyone, from mingling with locals on a London pub crawl, and seeking adventure in the Greek isles to photographing the majesty of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and venturing through the Roman Forum and the 2000-year-old Parthenon in Athens. The beauty of this journey is the balance of fun excursions, time at leisure and fascinating looks into history, architecture and breathtaking European landscapes. Unleash your inner adventurer and make memories and new friends to last a lifetime.

DAY 1 TRAVEL TO ENGLAND

Embark on your overnight flight to London.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: LONDON

Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and unwind. In the evening, meet fellow travelers and your tour director at our welcome orientation followed by a fun London pub crawl.

Meals: In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation, Welcome cocktail, Pub crawl

DAY 3 LONDON

Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey: These familiar names become familiar places on our morning tour of London. During an afternoon at leisure, browse the many food, craft and clothing stalls at popular Camden Market, walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter at Leadenhall Market aka Diagon Alley or take a ride on the London Eye for a birds-eye view of the city and the opportunity to take great photographs. After dusk, consider taking in some Shakespeare at the Globe Theater by the Thames River or attending a West End show.

Meals: Breakfast

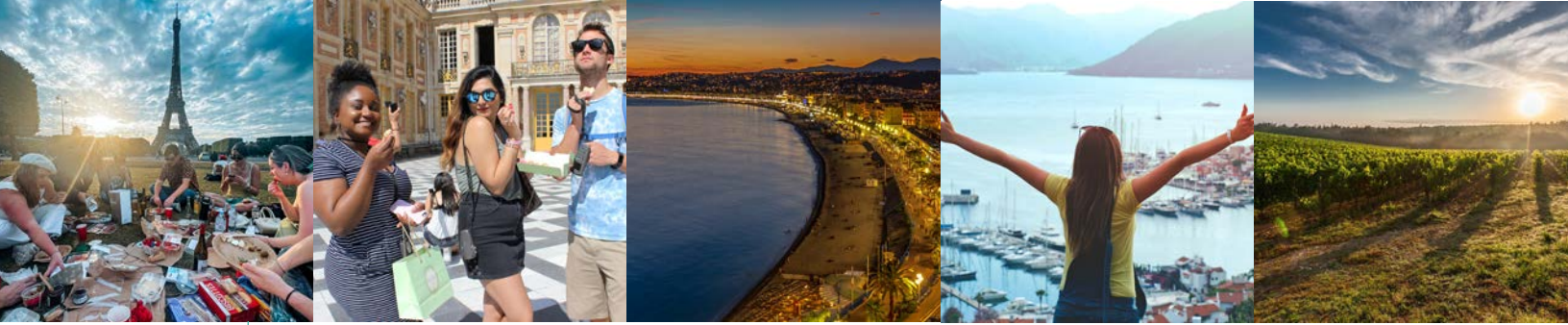
Inclusions: 1-day group tube pass, Tour of London guided by a local historian, Personal audio headset, See Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge and more

DAY 4 LONDON - PARIS

Travel through the "Chunnel" below the English Channel to Paris. Our local art historian shows us the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine once stood. Tonight, dine on French specialties at our bistro dinner. Afterward, we take a romantic cruise down the river Seine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: English Channel Eurostar train, Tour of Paris guided by a local historian, See the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Place de la Concorde, Arc de Triomphe and more, See Paris-by-night illuminations, French bistro dinner, Seine River cruise



DAY 5 PARIS

Enjoy a free day in Paris today. You can opt to join your tour director for a visit to a French perfumery and museum this morning. Afterwards consider visiting the Palace of Versailles, Louis XIV's residence. The included museum pass gives you access to the Hall of Mirrors and the King's Grand Chambers. Marvel at the sheer size of the palace, one of the most beautiful castles in the world with an astonishing 700 rooms. Later check out another one of the 70 museums and monuments included in your pass in and around Paris, such as the world-famous Louvre, housing the Mona Lisa, Musée d'Orsay and Musée National Picasso. Your Paris travel card will provide unlimited public transportation throughout the city. This evening you may consider seeing a can-can cabaret show at the world-famous Moulin Rouge.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Paris travel card with unlimited access to public transportation system, Paris Museum Pass (Note: most museums require reservations, when using the pass. Book early to secure your spot.)

Optional Activities: Optional visit to French perfumery and museum, French cabaret show

DAY 6 PARIS - FRENCH RIVIERA

This morning, the TGV high-speed train takes us from Paris to Nice, queen resort of the Côte d'Azur. Enjoy your free afternoon on picturesque beaches along the Mediterranean coastline, stroll promenades lined with chic boutiques, or unwind at a sidewalk café. The thriving local art scene and buzzing nightlife is yours to discover after tonight's brasserie dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: High-speed train to Nice, See Promenade d'Anglais, Place Macena and more, French brasserie dinner

DAY 7 FRENCH RIVIERA

Enjoy a free day on the dazzling French Riviera. Relax on the beach, paddle in the azure sea, or sip on a smooth cocktail beneath swaying palms. Consider exploring Nice to visit the magnificent Palais Lascaris, the Cathédrale de Sainte Réparate and harbors filled with opulent yachts. Or, you may opt to join our excursion to Monaco, where Prince Rainier married Hollywood actress Grace Kelly, and glitzy Cannes, known for its famous International Film Festival.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: French Riviera beaches and promenade

Optional Activities: Excursion to Monte Carlo & Cannes (not offered during Grand Prix)

DAY 8 FRENCH RIVIERA - PISA - TUSCANY

Our journey takes us along the scenic Côte d'Azur's sun-splashed beaches. We cross the border into Italy and arrive in Pisa with its stunning Piazza dei Miracoli. Take time to admire the Baptistery, the Cathedral, and take selfies in front of the famous Leaning Tower. Now, immerse yourself in the magic of Tuscany. Travel along rolling hills of olive groves and vineyards crowned by castles and ancient abbeys. Renaissance culture is around every corner with hilltop towns unchanged from the Middle Ages. This region is also known for its fabulous farm-to-table agritourism. Enjoy our Chianti wine tasting and then savor regional dishes featuring produce and wines direct from the local farms.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Private motor coach from the French Riviera to Tuscany, See the scenic Cote D'Azur, Visit to Pisa with its Leaning Tower, Chianti wine tasting, Tuscan dinner, Tuscan experience



DAY 9 TUSCANY - ROME - VATICAN CITY

This morning we continue our travels south to the capital of Italy. Get ready to soak up Rome’s dolce vita lifestyle as we explore the city’s picturesque streets and piazzas with our local historian. Ancient icons such as the Colosseum or Caesar’s Roman Forum remind us of the city’s golden age as the capital of the world. Vatican City with St. Peter’s Basilica towering over the square, and colossal cathedrals throughout the city, tells stories of its history as seat of the Catholic Church. Use your included Roma Pass to visit the Colosseum and take advantage of the included unlimited use of public transportation.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Tour of Rome and Vatican City guided by a local historian, Personal audio headset, See Caesar’s Forum, Circus Maximus, Pantheon and more, See St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City, Roma Pass entrance to Colosseum and Forum, Special access and discounts with Roma Pass, Unlimited access to local transportation with Roma Pass

DAY 10 ROME - VATICAN CITY

A free day in Rome may find you exploring Piazza Navona, climbing the famous Spanish Steps and tossing a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure your return to Rome. Try numerous flavors of the fabulous gelato ice cream or find yourself on Via dei Condotti, one of Rome’s fashionable shopping streets. This evening, we cross the Tiber River to Trastevere, one of Rome’s oldest neighborhoods, for our fun Italian Pizza Party. Toppings range from a simple drizzle of olive oil, rosemary and salt, to mushrooms, prosciutto ham and artichokes. Buon appetito!

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: See Piazza Navona, the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and more, Special access and discounts with Roma Pass, Unlimited access to local transportation with Roma Pass, Pizza Party in Trastevere

DAY 11 TRAVEL HOME - OR CONTINUE TO POMPEII & OVERNIGHT SHIP TO GREECE

For some of us the celebratory tour of Europe ends in Rome this morning. Bid farewell to friends and “arrivederci” to Italy before jetting back home with memories to last a lifetime. For the rest of us - sunny olive groves line the way south to Pompeii. Under the shadow of Vesuvius, the volcano that buried this ancient city in 79 A.D., explore the excavated wonders including homes, markets and temples that remain intact, and streets that still bear the marks of chariot wheels from 2,000 years ago. Afterwards, we cross the Italian “boot” and board our overnight ship to Greece.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Tour of the Pompeii excavations guided by a local historian, Personal audio headset, Scenic overnight ship from Italy to Greece, For those traveling home, transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

DAY 12 ISLE OF POROS

After cruising through aquamarine waters, our ship docks at Patras. Motor along the Corinthian Sea across the Peloponnese to Galatas and the island of Poros. Relax and unwind with three days of living like a Greek god or goddess. Enjoy a welcome drink at the pool bar before exploring this idyllic island.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Relaxing pool and beach time, Enjoy iconic Greek sunsets, Traditional Greek dinner



DAY 13 ISLE OF POROS

Today is free to enjoy at your leisure. Go for a swim, bask in the golden sun, or take part in optional watersports such as waterskiing, wakeboarding, parasailing, banana-boating or tubing. Dancing like Zorba at a local tavern is always a must-do evening activity.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Explore the white-washed village center of Poros, Traditional Greek dinner, Beach and pool

Optional Activities: Watersports

DAY 14 ISLE OF POROS

Poros old town center has great shopping or the more adventurous can venture to the 6th-century BC ruins of Poseidon's Temple on the island's highest peak. Bicycles will be provided today, which offer an opportunity to further explore the island. Tonight, we invite everyone to our fun toga party.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Bike rental on the Isle of Poros, Beach and pool, Greek BBQ dinner, Greek toga party

DAY 15 ISLE OF POROS - ATHENS

In the morning we board our ferry to Athens. See the 2,400-year-old Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Constitution Square. A free afternoon may find us wandering the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles or trying our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. This evening follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District – Athens' oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Tour of Athens guided by a local historian, Acropolis admission, Greek tavern farewell dinner, Greek music and dancing

DAY 16 TRAVEL HOME

Reluctantly we say farewell to Europe and new-found friends. Jet back home with thoughts of planning your next alumni adventure!

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey College Grad!

From the pomp and pageantry of London to the glamour of Paris, from the ancient Roman ruins to the sun-kissed beaches of Greece, Europe's infinite variety of people, places, and traditions are the perfect setting for a journey that celebrates and educates. Get ready for a feast of all senses on this discovery of stunning world heritage sites, exceptional museums, amazing local cuisine, and breathtaking landscapes. Enjoy leisure time for explorations with new-found friends and return home with incredible memories.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: RELAXED

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels and ships offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$875 for the 11-day or \$1,260 for the 16-day applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single accommodations will be supplied free of charge.

“ NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN AMAZING TRIP, IT WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO SEE THE WORLD. ”

- past grad trip traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 90 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 89-60 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50%; between 29-16 days 75%. Cancellation within 16 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable.

Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.