



Day 1: Fly to Germany

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Frankfurt.

Day 2: Frankfurt | Heidelberg

Arrive in Frankfurt: Welcome to Frankfurt. Once your group has arrived you will continue on to Heidelberg.

Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg: The majestic Old Bridge crosses into the heart of Heidelberg, a city set in the lush green foothills of the Neckar Valley. Then, ride a funicular up to the Heidelberg Castle.

Days 3-4: Munich

Explore Munich: Stroll through the heart of Munich, where medieval trade routes once intersected. In Marienplatz, see the neo-Gothic Neues Rathaus (literally, "New Town Hall") with its famous Glockenspiel. Continue past the cathedral known as Frauenkirche and the famous Hofbräuhaus, once the royal brewery of the Kingdom of Bavaria.

Sightseeing tour of Munich: Your sightseeing tour will take you past the Olympic Stadium, Marienplatz, the fashionable Schwabing district and the Residenz, former home of the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria.

Dachau: Take time to reflect at Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp liberated by the Allies in 1945. Today, Dachau serves as a memorial museum.

Days 5-6: Venice

Travel to Venice: On your way to Italy, stop in Innsbruck, the capital of the beautiful Austrian province of Tyrol.

Guided sightseeing of Venice: Begin at St. Mark's Square, "the finest drawing room in Europe," according to Napoleon. 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. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you'll see why during a glass-blowing demonstration.

Doge's Palace: Visit the grand 14th-century, pink-and-white Doge's Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Here, you'll stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, connecting the palace and its prison.

Days 7-8: Rome

Sightseeing tour of Vatican City: On your sightseeing tour, look for the papal protectors who flank the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica—they're the highly trained soldiers of the Vatican City's Pontifical Swiss Guard. Inside, experience Michelangelo's breathtaking frescos at the Sistine Chapel.

Sightseeing tour of Rome: Walk through the Colosseum, the world's most famous arena. Here, you can almost hear the stamping feet of the crowds gathered for gladiatorial combat. Nearby, the ruins of the Roman Forum mark the former heart of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave many of his political speeches on this site.

Rome on foot: On your self-guided walking tour, view the Pantheon, built to honor all the gods of Rome. Continue to the grand Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps, Europe's widest staircase. Before you say "arrivederci," toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to the Eternal City.

Day 9: Florence

Sightseeing tour of Florence: Make your way to Florence, known as the birthplace of the Italian language, opera and the Renaissance. Pass by classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop.

Duomo: The domed cap of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, or the Duomo, dominates the skyline. Opposite the Duomo, look for the bronzed doors of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise at the Baptistery.

Days 10-11: Swiss Alps

Sightseeing tour of Lucerne: See the moving Lion Monument known as Löwendenkmal and follow Lucerne's winding cobbled streets past fairy-tale houses to the Kapellbrücke.

☞ **Mount Pilatus:** Opt to join an excursion that takes you up Mount Pilatus for spectacular panoramic views of Lucerne.

Day 12: Lucerne | Burgundy

Sightseeing tour of Dijon: Walk down Dijon's wide boulevards and through its lively center as your tour Burgundy's ancient capital, what some call "France's best-kept secret."

Days 13-14: Paris

Explore Paris: Check out Paris on foot. Head to the Latin Quarter, so named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populated the area.

Notre Dame Cathedral: Admire Notre Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows and vaulted ceilings.

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe and strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. Your guide shares insight into Parisian culture and stories of the city's military history as you continue past Les Invalides.

☞ **Versailles:** Explore the Hall of Mirrors and walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens at the lavish estate where Louis XIV hosted his royal court.

Days 15-16: London

Travel to London: Board a Eurostar train to London.

Sightseeing tour of London: From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Admire architectural marvels like St. Paul's Cathedral, and check out the five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus and the urban greenery of Hyde Park. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour at the River Thames and snap photos of the Tower of London.

Explore London: Ready to see London on foot? Stretch your legs and set out through Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, the Strand and Leicester Square on a walking tour of the city. Then, recount your group's two-week adventure over a fish and chips dinner this evening.

Day 17: Depart for home

☞ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 17-18: London

Stonehenge and Bath: Take a full-day guided excursion through the English countryside to two historic landmarks. First, visit Stonehenge, England's most mysterious landmark. You'll also visit Bath, famous for its Georgian architecture. Visit the acclaimed Roman baths, built by the Romans in the 1st century. Finally, enjoy free time in London before departing for home.

Day 19: Depart for home