



Educational Tours

Essence of Europe

A private tour designed by Eric Juhnke, in conjunction with EF Customized Tours

Requested departure date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 4 days on either side of requested departure date)

Day 1

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Board your overnight flight to Frankfurt!

Day 2

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Arrive in Frankfurt and Transfer to Heidelberg

Arrive in Germany's economic capital of Frankfurt before transferring to Heidelberg, one of Germany's most beautiful towns, standing proudly on the River Neckar. While its castle dominates the skyline, the town also has wonderful shopping and a vibrant nightlife due to its large university population.

Walking Tour of Heidelberg (time permitting)

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 wine barrel, the world's largest, with a capacity of over 50,000 gallons. Enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where Homo Heidelbergensis roamed 500,000 years ago. Stroll the town's medieval streets to Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake.

Overnight in Heidelberg

Day 3

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Transfer to Munich

Welcome to Munich! This center of culture boasts over 45 museums, 10 university buildings and two opera houses. The city is also home to the Olympic center with full facilities and more than the occasional beer-hall.

Walking Tour of Munich

Begin your tour by the city gates near the train station. From here, stroll through the very heart of Munich as you pass the unique twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche. Passing by the Marienplatz, with its stunning Gothic city-hall, you will enter the food market offering an almost limitless supply of delicacies.

Overnight in Munich

Day 4

Friday, May 24, 2013

Guided Sightseeing of Munich

Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, the headquarters of BMW, 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 the previously mentioned Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, where you'll see 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

Once merely another sleepy German village, Dachau has since 1933 gained notoriety as Germany's first Nazi concentration camp. Today, the old administration building houses a museum documenting the rise of Hitler and the horrors of camp life. Commemorative chapels and memorials have also been built on the site, which stands as eternal memorial to those who endured life here until liberation by Allied forces.

Overnight in Munich

Day 5

Saturday, May 25, 2013

Transfer to Venice 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). Enjoy some free time during this stop to grab some lunch before continuing to Venice.

Arrive in Venice

Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo. Known globally for its gondoliers and glassware, Venice is also a heady mix of busy piazzas, thronging with pizzerias and cafes, as well as deserted streets, alongside canals, leading to hidden gems such as churches or local-dominated restaurants serving regional delicacies.

Overnight in Venice

Day 6

Sunday, May 26, 2013

Guided Sightseeing of Venice

Begin your tour of La Serenissima (the city's nickname meaning "the most serene") on the island of Murano, where you will attend a glass-blowing demonstration and discover why Venice is famous for its glassware. Then cross the lagoon to the city's main island for a visit to 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 were smuggled out of Alexandria in a barrel of salt pork to prevent a thorough search by the city's Muslim guards in the 11th century. 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 glassblowing demonstration.

Visit the Doges' Palace

Later, you will continue your sightseeing at the Doges' Palace. Visit the grand 14th-century, pink and white Doges' Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. You'll cross "the Bridge of Sighs" connecting the palace and its prison.

Overnight in Venice

Day 7

Monday, May 27, 2013

Transfer to Rome

Continue on to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure. As Italy's capital, it is also the bustling heart of this exciting country. With its fashionable shopping and café-culture, Rome really is a unique European experience.

Overnight in Rome

Day 8**Tuesday, May 28, 2013****Guided Sightseeing of Rome**

Begin your tour at Piazza Venezia, which is dominated on one side by the controversial monument to Victor Emmanuel II, first king of a united Italy. From here head towards the Colosseum and learn more of a gladiator's life and this astonishing building while walking inside its famed walls. Your tour ends in the Forum, political heart of the Roman Empire and center of some of history's greatest events.

Guided Sightseeing of Vatican City

Tour St. Peter's Basilica (the world's largest dome) in the Vatican City, erected on the site where the saint was martyred. Inside, admire Michelangelo's *Pietà* along with the numerous features of this masterpiece cathedral—visually stunning and deceptive in equal measure. Passing through the Vatican museums, you will enter the Sistine Chapel, crowned with Michelangelo's incomparable ceiling depicting the creation.

Overnight in Rome

Day 9**Wednesday, May 29, 2013****Transfer to Florence**

Set deep in the heart of Tuscany is one of Italy's jewels. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture. Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty.

Guided Sightseeing of Florence

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral in the Piazza del Duomo. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary Gates of Paradise (so dubbed by Michelangelo), and pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria. Here you can see where Michelangelo's David originally stood. Later, watch local artisans at work at a leather workshop.

Overnight in Florence

Day 10**Thursday, May 30, 2013****Transfer to the Lucerne Region**

Recall the legends of folk hero William Tell (and his fortunate aim) as you overnight in the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne) region.

Overnight in Lucerne Region

Day 11**Friday, May 31, 2013****Walking Tour 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 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. .

Free Time in Lucerne

Enjoy free time to stroll along the shores of Lake Lucerne, view the fairy-tale exteriors of local homes, or sample Switzerland's incomparable chocolate. Enjoy free time to shop in the center of town. Famed for its Rolexes and Swiss army knives, which you can have engraved, Lucerne also offers some of the finest chocolate anywhere. Alternatively, climb to the city limits and walk by part of the defensive fortification for spectacular views of the city and lake below.

Overnight in Lucerne Region

Day 12

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Transfer to Paris via Dijon

Enjoy a lunch stop in Dijon on your way to Paris. You may enjoy a visit to the Palais des Ducs, seat of the Dukes of Burgundy, or the renowned Museum of Fine Arts. Otherwise pay a visit the gothic Church of Notre Dame or the Botanical Gardens.

Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. Over the centuries, Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically. Equally famed for its high fashion, awe-inspiring museums and elegant cuisine, Paris has also been a center of theater, literature and philosophy throughout the ages.

Overnight in Paris

Day 13

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Guided Sightseeing of Paris

Discover the city on the Seine during your morning bus tour. Learn about Paris' origins as a Roman settlement as you pass through the Île de la Cité, where you will also see Notre Dame Cathedral. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, and the École Militaire, where he graduated to Lieutenant. Continue down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution. Then, head through the Quartier Latin where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University, and drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D'Orsay, the Louvre and the Pont de Neuf, or 'new bridge', which is ironically Paris' oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit the 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 window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Overnight in Paris

Day 14

Monday, June 3, 2013

Transfer to Normandy

Transfer towards Normandy, where you will witness many of the scenes that turned the course of World War II. Despite its connection with major military events, Normandy is also a region of scenic beauty with elegant landscapes and patchwork fields as well as the majesty of its two major towns—Caen and Rouen.

Visit the Normandy Beaches

At daybreak on June 6, 1944, the Allies' D-Day landings took place, sparking the largest sea-borne invasion in military history and one of the bravest acts of World War II. As you walk on the same shores that witnessed so much courage and sacrifice over half a century ago, you can still see shelled out craters on the rocky cliffs alongside the occasional remains of German bunkers.

Visit the American Cemetery

Visit the final resting place of 9,386 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the landings and ensuing operations of World War II. The site also includes a memorial commemorating the soldiers and a chapel bearing the poignant words: "These endured all and gave all that justice among nations might prevail and that mankind might enjoy freedom and inherit peace."

Visit the Caen Mémorial: Museum of Peace

Pay tribute to WWII troops who fought on the beaches of Normandy as you visit the Caen Mémorial. You'll see a short film about the D-Day invasion, followed by a slide show on WWII. A third audio-visual presentation recounts the wars in Korea, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, as well as the continuing quest for world peace. Afterwards, tour the museum and see displays that depict pre-WWII Europe and trace the events that eventually led to the outbreak of war. Take time to walk through the Nobel Peace Prizewinners' Gallery, a gallery that highlights the accomplishments of the men and women who struggled for peace.

Board Overnight Ferry to England

Transfer to the harbor in Caen and board a night ferry that will take you across the English Channel to Portsmouth, England.

Overnight on Ferry

Day 15

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Arrive in Portsmouth and Transfer to London

"Sound drums and trumpets and to London all"—(Shakespeare, *King Henry VI part II*). Ranging from the North Sea in the east to the playing fields of Eton in the west, London covers an area of some 620 square miles and is home to over 8 million people. Prepare to observe the stunning architecture, vibrant street life and royal majesty of this bustling metropolis.

Guided Sightseeing of London

A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square; site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived, this area is sometimes called "Little America." 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, site of Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Pass Speaker's Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his 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 an orientation 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).

Overnight in London

Day 16

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Walking Tour of London

Stroll through the heart of London on your Tour Director-led walking tour of the city, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. As you walk along the ancient embankment, note that 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 from which all distances to London are measured. Enter Trafalgar Square, where you're sure to meet the world's most

famous pigeons, and pause at Nelson's column, a symbol of Britain's once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square and end your walk at chic Covent Garden, where 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.)

Free Time in London

Enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Café or Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, take a cruise down the Thames, or browse through the countless stores along Oxford Street. Attend a Shakespearean drama at a replica of the Globe Theatre, or visit the fascinating, hands-on exhibits of London's Natural History Museum.

Overnight in London

Day 17

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

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

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.



Educational Tours

Tour Highlights and Details

Overnight stays:

Heidelberg	(1)	Lucerne Region	(2)
Munich	(2)	Paris	(2)
Venice	(2)	Night Ferry Caen-Portsmouth	(1)
Rome	(2)	London	(2)
Florence	(1)		

Comprehensive sightseeing tours led by an expert local guide of the following:

Munich	Florence
Venice	Paris
Vatican City	London
Rome	

Entrances included to the following sites:

Heidelberg Castle & Wine Barrel	Colosseum
Dachau	Duomo, Florence
Doges' Palace	Leather-Making Demonstration
Glass-blowing Factory	Notre Dame Cathedral
Sistine Chapel	Caen Memorial
St. Peter's Basilica	Normandy Beaches
Forum Romanum	

Included in the Program Fee:

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

Not included in the Program Fee:

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Porterage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities