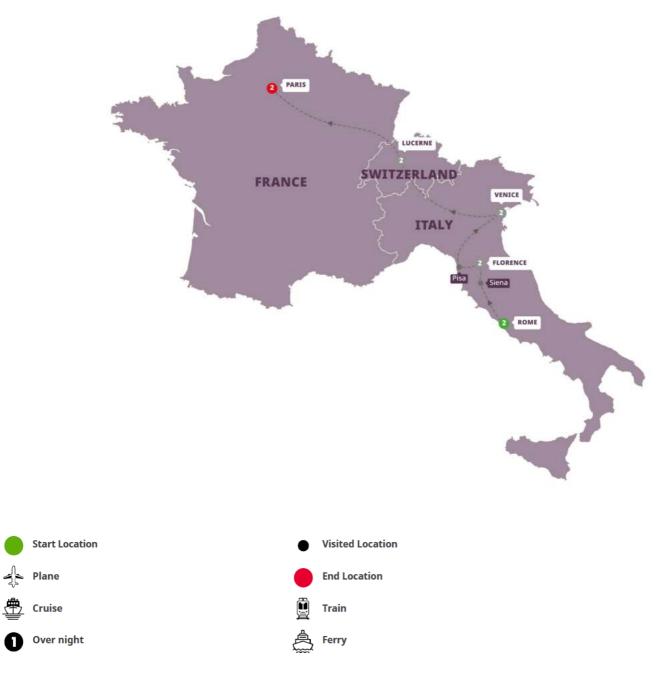
# European Splendour End Paris



# European Splendour End Paris



#### Day 1 | Welcome to Rome



Benvenuto a Roma – what was once the 'Capital of the World' is today a vibrant city filled with Italian zest for life and centuries of celebrated history. Enjoy some free time to explore before joining your fellow travellers and Travel Director for dinner and an orientation drive to kick off your unforgettable European adventure.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Precise House Mantegna

Day 2 | Explore the Ancient Sights of Rome



Venture to the Vatican City and join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour of Rome. We cross the Tiber River to see the ancient sites of Rome, including the mighty Colosseum and Circus Maximus. Imagine the thunderous roar of thousands of exhilarated spectators cheering their chosen chariots to victory. This afternoon there is time to explore the city on your terms. Perhaps toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain to secure your return to Rome or embark on an Optional Experience to visit the Colosseum and Forum.

Meals: Breakfast

**Hotel:** Precise House Mantegna

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Roman Evening with Dinner - Spend a light-hearted evening with us in Rome. Relax and enjoy typical Italian cuisine with drinks and music. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a drive and provide a glimpse into how Romans enjoy their city.

Adult: 73.00 EUR

Piazzas and Fountains - Discover the most charming areas in the city with a Local Specialist. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets and beautiful squares of Rome's historic centre, leading to highlights such as the Trevi Fountain, as well as hidden corners of the Eternal City.

Adult: 46.00 EUR

Day 3 | Admire Siena on the Way to Florence



Travel into the scenic Tuscan hills to medieval Siena with its honey-stone façades. View the Piazza del Campo, where the exhilarating Palio horse race takes place, and see ornate medieval palaces and the 14<sup>th</sup>century marble Duomo. Spend some free time seeking out your favourite hand-painted ceramics to take home as souvenirs. Continue to Florence, the 'Cradle of the Renaissance', where you'll spend the next two nights. Tonight, Connect With Locals over dinner for a special Be My Guest experience at a magnificent Tuscan villa.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Hilton Metropole

# **Day 4 | Discover Renaissance Florence**



The extraordinary art and architecture of Florence are celebrated during our guided walking tour with a Local Specialist. You'll view the exquisite marble Duomo and visit Piazza della Signoria with its palazzi and magnificent art, including a replica of Michelangelo's David statue. View the Ponte Vecchio bridge, the only bridge over the River Arno that the fleeing German army did not destroy during World War II. Learn about the quality and workmanship of two of this city's historic industries during demonstrations of Florentine leathercraft and 18-carat gold. Later, you'll have time to explore the city on your own. Consider a visit to the Uffizi Gallery or wander through the Boboli Gardens of Pitti Palace – the choice is yours.

Meals: Breakfast

**Hotel:** Hilton Metropole

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Michelangelo's 'David' & Accademia - Enjoy an insight into the world of Michelangelo and his masterpiece, 'David'. We'll visit the Academy of Fine Arts and its Michelangelo collection, where you'll learn all about the life and works of this immortal Renaissance genius through the expert commentary of our Local Specialist. Adult: 59.00 EUR

\*The Accademia is not available on Mondays due to weekly closure day.

Discover Palazzo Vecchio - Marvel at the legacy of the Medici as you visit Palazzo Vecchio, the symbol of Florence's political power for over seven centuries. With our Local Specialist we'll visit the wonderful "Hall of the Five Hundred", dedicated to the Medici popes. We'll also visit rooms decorated with masterpieces by famous artists of the Renaissance like Michelangelo and Donatello. Adult: 46.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

#### Dinner in the Tuscan Hills -

This evening, take a scenic drive to experience a fun and relaxed evening at a friendly, typical restaurant in the countryside. The chef will delight our senses with regional dishes, made with freshly-bought ingredients from the local farmers' markets. Your delicious meal will be accompanied by excellent wines from the vineyards for which this area is so well known. In short, a Tuscan dream come true in an authentic setting.

Adult: 74.00 EUR

*Tuscan Dinner at Villa Machiavelli -* Through the Chianti hills, you'll drive past vineyards to a delightful hamlet. Our destination is the ancient stone house of Machiavelli, where the great political theorist wrote his immortal work, 'The Prince'. After a welcome drink and a visit of the villa and its wine-cellars, enjoy the best of Tuscan cuisine accompanied by great music and drinks, including of course, Chianti from the Villa's own vines. Adult: 74.00 EUR

# Day 5 | Onwards to Pisa and Venice



Travel to Pisa today and to the Square of Miracles to view the famous Leaning Tower and Italy's largest Baptistery. Cross the Apennine hills and flat Veneto plains to the island city of Venice. The rest of the day is yours to relax and soak up the sights and sounds of the 'Queen of the Adriatic'. Consider joining an Optional Experience and explore the labyrinthine canals of Venice by gondola before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Le Boulevard Lido

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Gondolas & the Grand Canal - On arrival in Venice, a private boat will be waiting to take you to St Mark's Square, where you'll enjoy a gondola ride while being serenaded by local musicians. Later, private water taxis will take you along Venice's Grand Canal, where you'll admire the magnificent palazzos and Rialto Bridge. Adult: 88.00 EUR

# Day 6 | Explore the Canals of Venice



Embark on today's unforgettable MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness first-hand the centuries-old tradition of Venetian glassblowing using the same techniques that have been handed down through the generations. You'll learn how the master craftsmen shape the molten glass to make the exquisite and delicate works of art that adorn homes all over the world and perhaps be inspired to buy your own souvenir as a reminder of this special visit. Next, take to the water and cruise by private launch to the gateway of Venice, St. Mark's Square. Join your Travel Director to see the iconic and unexpected highlights of the city - the ornate Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs, St. Mark's Basilica and the Campanile with its five bells. The rest of the day is yours at leisure or consider joining an Optional Experience to the island of Burano for a delicious traditional meal that would make any Italian mamma proud.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Le Boulevard Lido

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Lagoon Cruise to Burano with Food and Drinks - This afternoon, discover the Venetian Lagoon by private boat. You'll enjoy a delicious meal, with a selection of drinks, on the fisherman's island of Burano, famous for its Multi-coloured houses - a photographer's paradise.

Adult: 82.00 EUR

Hidden Venice & St. Mark's Basilica - Experience magnificent St. Mark's Basilica and its glittering gold mosaics the best way possible - with VIP entrance and a Local Specialist! Then delve into the city's labyrinth of back alleys and canals, bridges and secret squares - enchanting neighbourhoods that you would never find on your own, all explained and brought to life by a true Venetian! Adult: 43.00 EUR

# Day 7 | Off to Lucerne



We travel through the Italian Lake District bound for Switzerland this morning, we continue through the alpine landscapes, past Lugano and through the St. Gotthard tunnel into central Switzerland, where we'll spend the next two nights in the medieval lakeside city of Lucerne.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Grand Europe

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Swiss Folklore Evening with Dinner - Tonight we'll enjoy a tasty Swiss meal, including the famous Swiss cheese fondue, in a typical restaurant. While enjoying dinner, you can also join in a lively folklore show which includes yodelling, flag-throwing and Alpine horn-blowing. Two drinks are also included. Adult: 111.00 CHF

Swiss Dinner by the Lake - Tonight, we'll enjoy a delicious Swiss meal that includes the famous Swiss cheese fondue in a typical local restaurant. Its lakeside location and well-placed terrace will ensure a relaxing evening enjoying the hearty Swiss menu. Two drinks are included. Adult: 104.00 CHF

## Day 8 | Uncover Lucerne's Treasures



Enjoy an orientation of Lucerne with your Travel Director. You'll see the Lion Monument and pay tribute to the Swiss Guards who lost their lives during the French Revolution, before heading to the picturesque wooden Chapel Bridge, lined with pretty pink, white and purple blooms. Spend the rest of the day at leisure ambling past the beautifully painted façades in the Old Town. Shop for luxurious Swiss chocolate or consider joining an Optional Experience to one of the surrounding mountains to admire panoramic views.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Grand Europe

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Mount Pilatus And Lake Cruise - We'll ascend by cog-wheel train to Mount Pilatus' summit, where you'll have time to explore, admire the views, and breathe the pure air. Then, we'll descend by cable-car to enjoy a scenic lake cruise.

Adult: 121.00 CHF

Swiss Countryside & Carriages - A chance to get to know the Swiss, you'll meet local farmers and enjoy a delightful countryside tour in horse-drawn carriages. Soak up the stunning scenery as we trot around a typical rural community, en route to a local homestead where you'll savour local drinks and snacks. Adult: 77.00 CHF

<sup>\*</sup>On certain departures this optional experience may be operated in reverse.

<sup>\*</sup>Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Day 9 | Journey to Paris



Cross the French border and what remains of the Maginot Line, journeying through the rolling vineyardclad hills of Burgundy, one of France's most prominent wine regions. Arriving in Paris later this afternoon, we join our fellow travellers and Travel Director for dinner celebrating the end of our European adventure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Renaissance La Défense

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Moulin Rouge Cabaret and Dinner - It's world famous for a reason, and this is your chance to see the real-life inspiration behind the award-winning movie. This Parisian institution features 60 dancers and entertainers with over 1,000 costumes to create a dazzling spectacle. You'll enjoy wine, dinner and Champagne during this unforgettable soirée at the original Parisian Cabaret!

Adult: 205.00 EUR

Seine Cruise and Paris Illuminations - To truly see Paris in all its glory, you need to see it from the Seine. Enjoy a cruise along this famous river and take in unmatched views of the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower. Afterwards, we'll drive through the City of Lights to see some of the fascinating sights this beautiful city has to offer.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

# **Day 10 | Discover Magical Paris**



Join a Local Specialist this morning for a guided tour along the grand Champs-Élysées and Place de la Concorde. View Notre Dame Cathedral and enjoy a stroll through the Latin Quarter.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Renaissance La Défense

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

*Montparnasse and Napoleon's Tomb -* Take the fastest elevator in Europe to the Panoramic Observation Deck for unbeatable views of the Eiffel Tower and all of the city's iconic monuments. We'll also visit the Dôme des Invalides with our Local Specialist to see Napoleon's final resting place. Adult: 58.00 EUR

Versailles Palace and Gardens - Built for the Sun King, Louis XIV, the Palace of Versailles was the envy of every European ruler, but loathed by the French commoners, which lead to the French Revolution. Step inside the opulent world of Versailles and our Local Specialist will take you through the palace's Hall of Mirrors and State apartments. Then, enjoy free time to wander the symmetrical, tree-lined gardens.\*\* Adult: 81.00 EUR

\*This optional is subject to availability.

# Day 11 | Au Revoir Paris



For now, it's time to say a fond farewell to our newfound friends and Travel Director at the end of an unforgettable journey.

Meals: Breakfast