



# AMSTERDAM & PARIS



*Educational  
Tours*



**Discover the Global Classroom**

8 or 11 DAYS

# Amsterdam & Paris

The Netherlands • Belgium • France • Extension to England



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Experience the magic of these two beautiful cities, each special and memorable in its own way.

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 6 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Amsterdam • Paris
- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Brussels
- 1 orientation tour led by your tour director: Amsterdam
- 1 walking tour: Paris
- 4 visits to special attractions: Anne Frank House • Porcelain factory Notre Dame Cathedral • Musée d'Orsay

## OPTIONAL:

- Volendam and Zaanse Schans (seasonal)
- Versailles

## WITH EXTENSION:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: London
- 1 walking tour: London
- 1 visit to a special attraction: Tower of London
- Eurostar high-speed train
- Optional: Oxford and Stratford

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to the Netherlands** • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

## Day 2 Amsterdam

**Arrival in Amsterdam** • Touch down in Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

**Orientation tour of Amsterdam** • Your tour director introduces you to Amsterdam. The capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam is also an important commercial, historic, cultural and artistic center. Amsterdam was once home to Rembrandt, whose residence remains open to visitors today, and boasts friendly cafés and world-class museums, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Jewish History Museum. Step into a fairy tale as you marvel at this city of 1,200 bridges and 160 canals.

## Day 3 Amsterdam

**Guided sightseeing of Amsterdam** • A local guide shows you Amsterdam's most famous sights on a walk through the city. Pass the Westerkerk (West Church), where the remains of Rembrandt and his son are buried. The church also held the wedding of Queen Beatrix in 1966. Continue to lively Dam Square, a dam around the Amstel River created in the 13th century to prevent the Zuiderzee Sea from flooding the city. Now this bustling tourist area boasts the impressive Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch

Royal Family; the National Monument; and the Nieuwekerk (New Church), where members of the Dutch Royal Family are officially inaugurated. See the Begijnhof, a lovely 14th-century courtyard built as a sanctuary for the Begijnhofites, a Catholic sisterhood. Walk across the lifting bridge to Waterlooplein. Marvel at the views of the Amstel River as you cross the Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge). Although "magere" means skinny in Dutch and the bridge was quite thin when built, rumor says the bridge was actually named for the Magere sisters, living on opposite sides of the river, who built the bridge to make it easier to visit each other. Finally, you will see Rembrandtplein, a square packed with terrace cafés, diamond shops, nightclubs and hotels.

**Visit to the Anne Frank House** • Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944 and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

**Optional excursion to Volendam and Zaanse Schans** • Discover the heart of the Dutch countryside in the picturesque fishing village of Volendam and the living and working neighborhood of Zaanse Schans, re-created to look like a 17th- or 18th-century Dutch village. Make your way down the winding, cobblestone streets, past charming shops and crooked houses. Stop in cheese- and clog-making shops before returning to Amsterdam. (Please note: This optional is available from March 15 to September 30.)

#### Day 4 Delft • Brussels

**Visit a porcelain factory** • Travel to the quaint city of Delft to visit a porcelain factory where the famous blue and white earthenware, Delftware, is created by local artisans.

**Transfer to Brussels** • Continue to Brussels, crossroads of Europe. Home to the European Commission and the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the city is rooted in over 1,000 years of history. Its vibrant, international atmosphere has brought forth such performers and writers as Audrey Hepburn, Jacques Brel and Marguerite Yourcenar.

#### Tour director-led sightseeing of Brussels

• Brussels is considered the unofficial capital of Europe—not only is it the first city of Belgium, but it also serves as the headquarters for NATO and the European Union. Pass the EU buildings as you head into the heart of medieval Brussels. Here you'll see the Guild Houses lining the Grand'Place, "the most beautiful square in the world," according to Victor Hugo (who lived here after being exiled from France). You'll also stroll past Brussels' oldest citizen, the Manneken Pis—ask about the legends surrounding the statue. In addition, you'll view the Atomium; Brussels' lasting exhibit for the 1958 World's Fair represents an iron molecule magnified 200 billion times.

#### Day 5 Brussels • Paris

**Transfer to Paris** • Continue to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

**Walking tour of Paris** • Your walking tour of Paris centers around the Île de la Cité, considered the birthplace of Paris. This island, surrounded entirely by the Seine, has been inhabited since the 3rd century B.C. and was the political and religious center of France for centuries. Île de la Cité houses three of Paris' most important buildings: Notre Dame Cathedral; the Conciergerie, Paris' first prison; and St. Chapelle, the Gothic Catholic church.

**Visit to 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 windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

**Dinner in the Latin Quarter** • Enjoy a delectable meal on Paris' bohemian Left Bank.

#### Day 6 Paris

**Guided sightseeing of Paris** • Discover the city on the Seine, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. You'll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon's army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

**Optional excursion to Versailles** • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here, the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

#### Day 7 Paris

**Visit to the Musée d'Orsay** • Part of this museum's draw is the building itself, not just the artwork that adorns its walls. Built for the 1900 Universal Exposition, the Gare d'Orsay functioned as a train station until 1939 and was converted into a museum in 1986. The high, arching ceiling and enormous wall clocks hint at the days when trains zipped in and out of the spacious structure. The museum is

noted for its collection of Impressionist paintings—a walk through the upper gallery will reveal works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Sisley, Pissarro and countless others.

**Free time in Paris** • Enjoy free time for your own explorations of Paris. You might wish to visit the Picasso Museum or the exhibits at the Pompidou Centre. Another possibility is a visit to Sacré-Cœur and Montmartre, where you can watch artists at work. Or take part in the timeless Parisian tradition of people-watching over a cup of café au lait at a sidewalk café.

#### Day 8 Home

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

#### EXTENSION

##### Day 8 Paris • London

**Transfer via the Eurostar** • Alternatively, your group can extend its stay two days. In Paris, board the high-speed Eurostar, an 18-car train that runs through the tunnel connecting continental Europe with Britain. Completed in May 1994, the Channel Tunnel provides travelers with easy access to and from the continent. Enjoy state-of-the-art technology as you glide under the English Channel.

**Arrival in London** • Arrive in London, Europe's largest city.

**Guided sightseeing of London** • A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square, which is sometimes called "Little America" because it's the site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived. 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. Pass Speaker's Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his or her 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.

##### Day 9 London

**Visit to the Tower of London** • The history of London comes to life at this complex of 20 towers surrounding Tower Green. The oldest tower, known as the White Tower, was completed in 1097, when it was the tallest building in London. The Tower buildings have had many uses over the years; perhaps the most infamous was as a jail for political prisoners,

not to mention two of Henry VIII's wives. The most famous exhibits at the Tower are the British Crown Jewels. Aside from a short interruption during WWII, these splendid baubles have been locked behind the Tower's walls for centuries.

**Walking tour of London** • Stroll through the heart of London on a walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. 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 considered to be London's geographic center; all measurements of distances to London end here. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where you'll enjoy watching 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.)

#### **Day 10 London**

##### **Optional excursion to Oxford and Stratford**

• Visit two of England's most acclaimed towns as you journey on a full-day excursion into the English countryside. First, travel through the Chiltern Hills to ivy-draped Oxford, a mecca of learning for more than 800 years. Stroll down High Street and tour one of the city's famous colleges. Next, it's on to Stratford-upon-Avon, famous not only as the place where Shakespeare was born, married and buried, but also for its Elizabethan (16th-century) buildings. You will visit Shakespeare's birthplace and see the old-fashioned English gardens and orchard belonging to his wife at Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

#### **Day 11 Home**

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

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**

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