



EUROPE AT LEISURE



*Educational
Tours*



Discover the Global Classroom

15 or 17 DAYS

Europe at Leisure

England • France • Switzerland • Italy



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



You and your students can linger around London's landmarks before checking out more of Europe's memorable sights.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
 - 13 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (15 with extension)
 - European breakfast and dinner daily
 - Full-time EF Tour Director
 - 5 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: London • Paris • Florence • Vatican City • Rome
 - 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Lucerne
 - 2 walking tours: London • Paris
 - 10 visits to special attractions: Tower of London • Eiffel Tower • Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration • Assisi Basilica • Colosseum • Forum Romanum • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica
 - Eurostar high-speed train
- OPTIONAL:** Stonehenge and Bath • Versailles
Mount Pilatus • Roman Catacombs • Pisa
- WITH EXTENSION:** All of the above PLUS:
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Pompeii • Capri
 - 2 visits to special attractions: Roman ruins at Pompeii • Capri island cruise

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Great Britain • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 London

Arrival in London • Touch down in London, Europe's largest city. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on our 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 3 London

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 London Bridge.

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.

Day 4 London

Optional excursion to Stonehenge and Bath •

This full-day guided excursion takes you through the English countryside to visit two historical landmarks that together span 4,000 years of English history! First, you'll visit Stonehenge, England's most mysterious landmark. The origin and purpose of this ring of stones, which dates from the Neolithic period, is unknown, though most believe it to have been a temple and observatory. Before returning to London, you'll also visit Bath, famous for its Georgian architecture, a lasting reminder of the world described in so many

Jane Austen novels. In her novel *Northanger Abbey*, Austen wrote, “I really believe I shall always be talking of Bath ... I do like it so very much. Oh! who can ever be tired of Bath.” This spa was a favorite vacation spot of early Romans and 18th-century English aristocracy alike; former residents include Queen Victoria and Lord Nelson. Visit the acclaimed Roman baths, built by the Romans in the 1st century to enjoy the hot springs, and today these baths remain the finest Roman ruins in Britain.

Day 5 London • Paris

Transfer via Eurostar from London to Paris

• In London, board the high-speed Eurostar, an 18-car train that runs through the tunnel connecting Britain with continental Europe. 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 to France.

Visit to the Eiffel Tower • Visit the iconic Eiffel Tower, which welcomes millions of visitors each year. In 1954, a mountaineer scaled the tower, and in 1984, two Englishmen parachuted off of it. Today, ascend to the second floor, home to the Jules Verne restaurant and some shops where you can pick up a souvenir. See if the City of Light looks any different from its most famous monument!

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 Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world’s greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei’s glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You’ll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the *Mona Lisa*.

Walking tour of Paris • Meander through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris’ most famous university, founded in 1253. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made to build a church dedicated to Sainte-Geneviève if he survived a severe illness. You’ll also explore Boulevard St. Michel and spend some time browsing the stacks at the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore, which published James Joyce’s *Ulysses* in 1922. As you make your way along the Seine, you’ll also have the chance to browse the literary materials sold at *les bouquinistes*, the bookstalls that sell old books, maps, art prints and postcards. It’s the perfect place to pick up some authentic souvenirs!

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.

Day 8 Paris • Lucerne Region

Transfer to the Lucerne region via Burgundy

Travel amid the vineyards of Burgundy on your way to Lucerne.

Day 9 Lucerne Region

Tour director-led sightseeing 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 captivating 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. Be on the lookout for the colorful, hand-painted façades along the cobbled streets of the Old Town.

Optional excursion to Mount Pilatus • This exciting half-day adventure takes you to the top of Mount Pilatus, the majestic mountain dominating the Lucerne skyline. In the summer months, travel to the foot of the mountain by boat across the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne); then ride the famous Pilatus cog railway—the steepest in the world—to the top. During the other seasons, you’ll journey to the mountain base by motor-coach before ascending by cable car. After 45 spectacular minutes and 6,387 feet, you’ll reach the summit and be rewarded with a splendid panorama of Lucerne, its lake and the glorious snow-capped Alps. On a clear day, you can see for more than 200 miles! (Summer season: June 2–September 30. Winter season: October 1–June 1.)

Day 10 Lucerne Region • Florence

Transfer to Florence • Arrive in Florence, birthplace of the Italian language, the Renaissance and opera.

Day 11 Florence

Guided sightseeing of Florence • Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. Pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria, where Michelangelo’s *David* originally stood and now the site of an impressive replica. From behind the Uffizi Palace, you will see the Ponte Vecchio, one of the city’s only bridges to survive WWII and now one of its most photographed sites. The bridge provided the Medici easy access from the Pitti Palace to the Uffizi. Continue past the Chiesa di Santa Croce, final resting place of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. Next, you will

visit the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, better known as the Duomo, or dome, that dominates Florence's skyline. The dome was sculptor and architect Brunelleschi's finest work, and the nearby campanile (bell tower) was designed by the painter Giotto. Look for the famous bronzed doors—Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise*—at the Baptistery opposite the Duomo. Later, watch artisans at work at a local leather-making demonstration.

Optional excursion to Pisa • Opt to journey to Pisa on this half-day excursion. In the city's Field of Miracles, snap a picture of the 12th-century Leaning Tower, aslant ever since the third floor was built. This is where Galileo was said to have developed his laws of gravity. Visit the adjacent cathedral and baptistery, which contain exquisite marble pulpits carved in the Gothic style by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano.

Day 12 Florence • Rome

Transfer via Assisi • Stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare. On your visit to the Basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most-beloved saints through Giotto's artful frescoes.

Arrival in Rome • Arrive in *bella Roma*, the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800.

Day 13 Rome

Guided sightseeing of Rome • Get to know Imperial Rome on a panoramic tour. Then spend time exploring the mighty Colosseum, Rome's largest amphitheater. Its elaborate construction spanned two emperors—building began between A.D. 70 and 72 under Vespasian and was completed in A.D. 80 under Titus. Originally built to accommodate nearly 50,000 spectators, the Colosseum played host to some of the most incredible spectacles of the day, including gladiatorial combat, mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions and even dramatic performances based on classical mythology. Later, visit the legendary Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire and the place where ancient Romans once sacrificed their victims. Even though many of the temples that once stood here are in ruins as (the Forum was used as a quarry for many years), it is not hard to imagine Caesar delivering great speeches here.

Self-guided walking tour of Rome • With an EF map in hand, you will navigate the streets of Rome to find some of the city's most famous landmarks on your own. Stop at the Trevi Fountain and make sure to toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome. Then view the Pantheon, one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city, commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian around A.D. 120. This temple to "all the gods" features the second-widest dome in Rome. Continue to the Piazza Navona and finish at the Spanish Steps.

Day 14 Rome

Visit to Vatican City • Today, you will explore Vatican City, the world's smallest country. Begin at the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries filled with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backward from a scaffold. Next, tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's *Pietà*, the only sculpture he ever signed.

Optional excursion to the Roman Catacombs

• Take an optional excursion to Rome's outlying catacombs, Christian burial grounds that date from the 2nd through 5th centuries. As you visit these mysterious burial chambers of popes and saints, keep your eyes out for early Christian art. Then continue on to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the second-largest church in the city of Rome, next to St. Peter's. On the basilica's peripheral walls hang circular portraits of each pope. There is space for only seven more portraits, and legend says the world will end once the walls fill up.

Day 15 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 15 Rome • Sorrento

Guided sightseeing of Pompeii • Alternatively, extend your stay two days. Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on an excursion to Pompeii, one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. When neighboring Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, volcanic ash completely buried the Roman resort. Now it is fully excavated, and you can see the ruins of villas, ancient temples and Stabian Baths. Nearby is the beautiful Bay of Naples, known for its magnificent views of the surrounding islands, capes and mountains.

Arrival in Sorrento • Experience the unparalleled beauty of Italy's favorite resort, overlooking the Bay of Naples.

Day 16 Sorrento • Rome

Guided sightseeing of Capri • Cross the Bay of Naples to the captivating Isle of Capri. Travel by funicular to the town of Capri and board a cruise to see the most spectacular views of Capri's coast. You'll see the Arco Naturale, a majestic stone arch on the eastern cliffs, and the famous Faraglioni, three enormous, pale-ochre limestone colossi that loom out of the sea. When weather conditions do not permit a cruise, groups will visit the town of Anacapri instead.

Transfer to Rome • Return to Rome, where you'll spend the night.

Day 17 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.



ITN0309EAL/X
Itinerary subject to change.

Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours

Enroll at eftours.com/student
or call 1-800-665-5364