



EXPAT EXPLORE TRAVEL LTD.
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Europe Explorer - 18 Days

Start point: London (or Paris)

End point: London

DAY 1: London – Paris (D)



Welcome to the start of your tour! We'll leave London and make straight for the channel, arriving in Paris in the early evening. When we arrive we'll have a guided coach tour of the City of Lights and Love, with brief history and context for Paris' main sights provided by your Expat Explore tour leader. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of time to explore in the morning on your free day in Paris! Tonight we'll head to Montmartre for dinner, once home to famous artists like Dali, Picasso, Monet and Van Gogh. Ramble the cobble-stone streets, admire the quaint cafes, art-shops and restaurants, and admire the views of Paris from the steps of the famous Sacre Coeur. Afterwards, why not explore some of the surrounding nightlife surrounding the Moulin Rouge?

Experiences

Driving Tour of Paris: driving tour of this famous city where you may see L'Opéra Garnier, the Tuileries Gardens, Place de la Concorde, Hotel de Ville, The River Seine, l'Île de la Cité, the Louvre Museum, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Lovers Bridge, Sacre Coeur, Montmartre, Pigalle (the Red Light District) and see the Moulin Rouge.

Accommodation

Ibis la Defense
B&B Porte Des Lilas
B&B Paris Malakof
Ibis Paris La Villette Cité des Sciences
B&B Paris Italie Porte de Choisy
B&B Hôtel Orly Chevilly

Other Foods to try

It's not all fine dining - visit a boulangerie (bakery) and try simple but delicious baguette, croissants and Jambon-beurre sandwiches.

DAY 2: Paris - Free day

Paris is yours to explore! Use your free day wisely – there's so much to see! Optional excursions include a River Seine cruise, which offers the perfect way to see some of the city's main sights. You can also opt for a trip up Montparnasse for incredible views of the city and the Eiffel Tower. Towering high above the city, it's the perfect place to get an eyeful of the City of Lights, especially at sunset. Look out for the hourly light show at the Eiffel Tower – time your visit to coincide with this spectacular display! There's even an optional cabaret show in the evening! Alternatively, head to the Eiffel Tower, visit the world-famous Louvre museum, stroll around the boutiques and bistros of La Marias, wander down the Champs Elysees, or head to famous monuments like Notre Dame Cathedral, see Oscar Wilde's gravestone at Père Lachaise Cemetery or venture deep underground to the infamous catacombs.

Attractions to discover in your free time

Catacombes	Tue-Sun 10:00 - 17:00	Adults €10 ; Children (under 18) Free
Louvre	Various times 09:00 - 18:00 (Closed Tues)	Adults €15 ; Children (under 18) Free
Notre Dame	Daily 08:00 – 18:45	Free
Sacré Coeur	Daily 06:00 – 23:30	Free
Disneyland Paris	Daily 10:00 - 23:00 (Click here for info)	varies
Eiffel Tower	Daily 09:00 - 00:45	Adults €15.50(lift) ; Children (12-24 yrs) €13.50 (lift)
Arc de Triomphe	Daily 10:00 - 23:00	Adults €8; Children (under 17) Free

Optional Excursions

Montparnasse Tower	€14
Cabaret Show	€70-90
River Seine Cruise	€12
Paris + Tour	€40

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 3: Beaune – Avignon (B/D)



Today we have an early start for the grand city of Avignon, stopping on the way in Beaune in the Burgundy region of France. This is the home of two things France is known best for – food and wine! We'll visit a beautiful French Chateau where you can explore the vineyard and wine cellar and even sample some of the produce. We then continue on to the ancient city of Avignon, arriving in the early evening and taking an orientation tour before dinner in a local restaurant. You can then spend the rest of the evening relaxing in the city, famous for its Papal Palace and the art and architecture that comes with it. Surrounded by wonderfully-preserved defensive walls that date back some 800 years, this is a city of ancient cobbled streets, fortresses, palaces and leafy squares.

Experiences

Visit a classic French chateau and explore the vineyard and wine cellar in the wine capital of the Burgundy region.

Your tour leader will take you on an orientation walking tour of Avignon, where you will see the Palais des Papes, the old Avignon town walls, Notre-Dame des Doms and Pont d'Avignon.

Accommodation

Ibis Budget Avignon
Ibis Nimes Ouest
Residhotel Grand Hotel Avignon
MERCURE Orange centre

Other Foods to try

Provence - delicious wine, enjoyed simply with bread and cheese.

DAY 4: Barcelona (B/D)



Leaving Avignon, we continue on through the idyllic French countryside to Pont du Gard to see a famous relic of the Roman Empire – the famous 2000 year-old Roman aqueduct. Afterwards, we make our way to Spain and the vibrant city of Barcelona, taking a driving tour of the city and learning a little more about its extraordinary main sights before having dinner. Take note of all the places you want to see during your free day tomorrow!

Experiences

A stop to see Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct bridge that crosses the Gardon River. The bridge has three tiers of arches, stands 160 ft tall, and once carried 44 million gallons of water a day to the fountains, baths and homes of the citizens of Nîmes.

Take a driving tour of vibrant Barcelona, which you can then explore further on your free day. You can see La Monumental Bullring, Sagrada Familia, Casa Batllo, Joan Miro Park, Fountain of 3 Rivers, The Venetian towers, Magic Fountain, Poble Espanyol (Spanish Village), Olympic stadium,

Port of Barcelona, Christopher Columbus Column, Las Ramblas, and a photo stop with views over the city.

Accommodation

Ibis Meridiana
Ibis Santa Coloma
Eurostars Mitre

Other Foods to try

Tapas - Spanish finger food, consisting of small plates of delicious hot & cold appetizers.

DAY 5: Barcelona - Free day

Today is yours to spend as you like! Stroll Las Ramblas and take a peek at Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece: the glorious La Sagrada Familia. You could also go shopping, eat tapas (which the city is famous for), relax on the beach or head into one of the city's many parks. With its distinctive Catalan ambience, Barcelona is an incredibly rewarding city to explore on foot, filled with hidden cantinas, intriguing boutiques and winding walkways – particularly in the old town. Seek out the food markets too – the perfect place to introduce yourself to the distinctive taste of Catalan cuisine!

Optional Excursions

Flamenco Show €40

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 6: Arles - French Riviera (B)



Off we go to the French Riviera! On the way, we'll stop off in Arles, a region you may recognise from the canvasses of Van Gogh. A favourite of the Romans, there's no shortage of historical artefacts to see, including an impressive theatre and amphitheatre – which still host bull-fights, festivals and street parties. We'll also stop at a French perfumery where you'll learn about what it takes to craft some of the world's finest fragrances, and then travel onward to the French Riviera. Known worldwide for its glitz and glamour, the Cote d'Azur is where high society has always assembled to enjoy art, food and entertainment. Enjoy the sea views and prepare for tomorrow – when you'll have a free day to explore the region yourself!

Experiences

Visit Arles: a comfort stop in this fascinating city with colourful houses that you may have seen in many of Van Goghs' paintings of Arles. You will have time to see the impressive Roman Amphitheatre.

Visit a perfumery & optional visit to Monaco: visit a perfumery dating back to the 18th century; this traditional French perfumery is one of the oldest in the region. Perfume making is an art that

dates back to antiquity and during your guided tour you will learn all about the complex processes involved in capturing and bottling these exquisite scents. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to visit the gift-shop if you wish to take a keepsake home.

Accommodation

ibis Styles Nice Aéroport Arenas
Hôtel Nicea
Appart'City Nice Acropolis
Ibis Budget Nice Californie Lenva
Kyriad Nice Gare

Other Foods to try

Bouillabaisse - a traditional fish stew originating from Marseille.

DAY 7: French Riviera - Free day

Today is yours to explore! Whether you choose to people-watch on the streets of Nice, sun-bathe on the beach, sip cocktails in the chic bars, or take advantage of the huge range of incredible restaurants, you're sure to have a brilliant day. Join us on a free optional excursion to the principality of Monaco! This beguiling region (the second-smallest country in the world after the Vatican) is the epitome of glitz and glamour.

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 8: Pisa - Florence – Tuscany (B)



Heading inland once more, we make for nearby Italy and one of the world's most famous landmarks, the leaning tower of Pisa! Be sure to have your cameras at the ready, this is one photo opportunity you wouldn't want to miss. After Pisa, Florence is our destination, where we'll have a guided walking tour of the city. Learn about the history of the city and see historical landmarks

dating from Roman times to the glory days of the Renaissance. Be sure to get photos of Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, the Basilica of Santa Croce, the Florence Baptistry and of course, Michelangelo's famous statue of David – a replica of which stands in the Palazzo della Signoria. (The original can be seen in the nearby Accademia Gallery.) After exploring, we make for the hills of Tuscany, arriving at the ancient Tuscan spa town of Montecatini Terme where we'll spend the night.

Experiences

View the Leaning Tower of Pisa: your chance to see the world famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, or even take some iconic pictures of you 'holding up' the tower.

Walking tour of Florence: the capital city of the Tuscan region of Italy and considered to be the birthplace of the Renaissance. We will take you on a walking tour with a professional local guide where you will see Florence's Baptistery, Bell Tower, Gates of Paradise, Brunelleschi's Dome, Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, Ponte Vecchio.

Optional Excursions

Tuscan Feast €22

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

Accommodation

Hotel Massimo d'Azeglio
Hotel Meridiana Florence

Other Foods to try

Lampredotto is a Florence street food, consisting of the fourth stomach of the cow cooked in a broth and then served with salsa verde or/and spicy sauce.

DAY 9: Rome (B/D)



We make our way to the country's capital, Rome. You'll be taken on a walking tour of the city, which will introduce you to the incredible history of this unique city, which reigned supreme as the focal point of the Roman Empire. The history of the city is everywhere you look, melded with style and culture from every age that followed. Highlights today include the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Roman Forum and of course the Coliseum. And let's not forget the Trevi Fountain – legend has it that if you drop a coin into the fountain, you'll return again one day. After our time in the centre of Rome, we'll be driven to our accommodation, where dinner is included.

Experiences

Walking tour of Rome: this city has so much to see and do we can't list everything here but your walking tour of Rome with a professional local guide will give you a great start for further exploration in your free time. You will see the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Arch of Septimus Severus, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona (Fountain of the Quattro Fiumi) and the Spanish steps.

Accommodation

Hotel Cristoforo Colombo
Hotel Club House Roma
Hotel American Palace

Other Foods to try

Typically based on seasonal ingredients prepared in a simple way, with lots of vegetables (peas, artichokes and beans), meat (lamb and goat) and cheeses (Pecorino romano and ricotta).

DAY 10: Rome - Free day

The day is yours to explore Rome as you wish. Head back to the ancient landmarks, or join our optional excursion to the Vatican City! Home of the Pope, this is the world's smallest country, with an area of just 44 hectares. Marvel at the artwork contained within this smallest of countries, and see how Rome became not just the centre of the Roman Empire, but then became the seat of papal power too.

Optional Excursions

Vatican City guided Tour	€45
Rome Pizza Making Experience	€40

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 11: Siena – Venice (B)



Our first stop is the Tuscan town of Siena, Siena is famous for its cuisine, wine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the Palio, a horse race held twice a year. You will have time to explore before we continue on our journey. Later, we arrive into Venice in the early evening, a city immortalised in literature, film and art for centuries. Its timeless waterways and artistic masterpieces (more per square kilometre than anywhere else on earth) make it truly unique – this is a city that will capture your heart and imagination. Being Italian, there's no shortage of incredible food and culture either! You'll start your stay in Venice with an orientation tour to get your bearings, after which you have time to explore this unforgettable city on your own.

Experiences

Visit Siena: we visit the Tuscan town of Siena, famous for the Palio horse race and also for its food and wine.

Orientation tour of Venice: your tour leader will take you into the heart of this unique floating city for an orientation to help you explore and see St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark's Museum, Campanile (Elevator to the top), Doge's Palace, Rialto Market and Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

Optional Excursions

Gondola Ride €20

Trip T-shirt €29

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

Accommodation

Elite Residence Hotel

NH Laguna Palace

Hotel Complex Ambasciatori & Delfino

Hotel Venezia

Other Foods to try

Pizza. Thin, crispy, fresh basil and delicious toppings!

DAY 12: Venice - Free day

Take today to explore Venice on your own. We highly recommend a visit to a Murano glass-blowing workshop and see a live demonstration of this traditional – and hugely impressive – art-form. Alternatively you can simply relax and soak up the sun on the sandy beaches at Jesolo or Lido. There's also St Mark's Square, The Bridge of Sighs and the Doge's Palace to see – and any number of culinary delights to sample too! Take a gondola ride along this city of canals to get the full Venetian experience.

Optional Excursions

Verona Half Day Excursion €40

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 13: Swiss Alps (B/D)



We continue on to the Alps from Venice, climbing higher into the mountains to our accommodation in a typical Swiss mountain village in the Jungfrau region. One of the most popular alpine destinations, it's a great introduction to the magic of the mountains – and makes for a memorable drive too. Dinner is at your hotel and afterwards relax, drink, chat with your fellow explorers and grab an early night as tomorrow you can join us on our most popular optional excursion – the Top of Europe.

Experiences

Scenic mountain drive: spectacular views as we drive through mountain passes and alongside lakes, breath-taking mountain vistas and scenic views of quaint Swiss towns.

Accommodation

Alpenrose Hotel & Gardens
Swiss Youth Hostel Interlaken
Hotel Baren Ringgenberg
Hotel Schonbhul
Hotel City Oberland
Das Hotel Sherlock Holmes

Other Foods to try

Cheese fondue - dip bread and meat into a pot of delicious melted cheese.

DAY 14: Swiss Alps - Free day

The splendour of the Alps is yours today – don't miss the chance to join our optional excursion up to Jungfrauoch, also known as the top of Europe! The trip to Europe's highest train station is a real highlight; you might find yourself pressed up against the windows as the picture-perfect Swiss countryside rolls beneath you. Look out for quaint villages nestled in the valleys beneath snow-capped peaks and tumbling mountain waterfalls. Once we've reached the top, enjoy the year-round snow and breath-taking views of the surrounding glaciers and craggy mountaintops. Once you've had a chance to explore and capture as many photos as possible, it's back down to lower altitudes for the rest of the afternoon.

Optional Excursions

Paragliding	CHF170
Sky-diving	CHF395
White-Water River Rafting	CHF110
Train to Jungfrauoch	CHF180
Swiss Cheese Fondue Dinner	CHF25

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 15: Rhine Valley (B/D)



This morning we board the coach once more as we make for Germany's famous Rhine Valley! Relax on board a Rhine riverboat as we head to our hotel in the heart of the idyllic Rhine Valley. This is the most concentrated stretch of castles in all of Europe, and it also features vineyards, charming medieval towns and lofty cliffs. Once you're done, enjoy a traditional German dinner, then walk it off with a stroll along the riverside. The perfect end to the day!

Experiences

Rhine River Cruise: cruise down the Rhine and see the beautiful scenery and the largest concentration of gothic castles (Sterrenberg, Liebestein, Katz and Fortess Rheinfels).

Opportunity to visit a cuckoo clock and beer stein-making shop.

Accommodation

Rheinlust
Ibis Bonn
Hotel Weiland
InterCity Bonn

Other Foods to try

The Rheingau, one of Germany's distinguished wine regions, stretches along the Rhine between Lorch and Hockenheim. Try Riesling and Eiswein.

DAY 16: Amsterdam (B/D)



The Netherlands is our next stop, and we arrive first at the windmill for a quick photo stop. Afterwards enjoy a traditional cheese-making demonstration, and learn about how that most quirky and quaint of footwear choices – the clog – is made, before travelling onward to Amsterdam. Here we'll check in to our hotel before joining a complimentary Amsterdam canal cruise! Watch the city drift past as you sail by, and listen out for tips and interesting insights into the city from your tour leader. Later on, join your tour leader for a walking tour of the infamous

Red Light District! The evening is yours – explore the canals and Dam Square, and enjoy your time in this fascinating city.

Experiences

Windmill: we stop at the Riekmolen Windmill.

Cheese and clogs demonstration: see how these famous shoes are traditionally made by hand and taste some fantastic cheeses. Of course the chance to shop and get those unique souvenirs.

Amsterdam Canal Cruise: sail along Amsterdam's stunning canals at twilight and enjoy a delicious pizza as you cruise. A perfect introduction to Amsterdam you will cruise along Amsterdam's atmospheric canals. Choose from six types of pizza, Ben and Jerry's ice cream, and you can also upgrade to include unlimited soft drinks, beer and wine.

Amsterdam orientation walking tour: your tour leader will show you Central Station, the infamous Red light district, Dam Square, Damrak, Royal Palace, National Monument, Old and New Church and of course the canals that weave through the city.

Accommodation

Hampton by Hilton Schipol Airport
Holiday Inn Express Schipol Airport
Park Inn Plaza Amsterdam Airport
Crowne Plaza Amsterdam Schiphol
Lake land Hotel

Other Foods to try

Dutch Krokot, cheese, bitterballen and pastries!

DAY 17: Amsterdam - Free day

The day is yours to further explore Amsterdam. Marvel at the sheer volume of artwork available here – and don't miss a visit to the Van Gogh museum! There's also the Rijksmuseum, Rembrandthuis, the Stedelijk, and of course the Hermitage Amsterdam. Don't forget the Anne Frank Museum too – commemorating the life of Anne Frank, one of the most discussed victims of the Jewish Holocaust. Her diary documented her ordeal hiding from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, and the museum in Amsterdam is a must-see for anyone visiting Amsterdam. Tired of museums? Hire a bicycle or board a barge to explore the city further, visit the cafes, or simply stroll along and see what the next corner brings – Amsterdam is chock-full of charming details, a rewarding city for those who seek out its best bits.

Attractions to discover in your free time

Houseboat Museum	Open 10:00- 17:00 Jan-Feb & Nov-Dec: Thurs-Sun / Mar-Jun & Sept-Oct: Tues-Sun / Jul & Aug: Mon-Sun	Adults €4.50; Children (5-15 yrs) €3.50
Rijksmuseum	Daily 9:00-17:00	Adults €17.50; Children (under 18 yrs) Free
Van Gogh Museum	Jan-Feb: 09:00 - 17:00 Mar-Sep: 09:00 - 18:00 Sep-Dec: 09:00 - 17:00	Adults €15; Children (under 18 yrs) Free
Anne Frank's house	Nov-Mar: daily 09:00 - 19:00 Apr-Oct: daily 09:00 - 21:00	Adults €9 ; Kids €4.50 (10-17 yrs)

Optional Excursions

Amsterdam Dungeon	€21
Heineken Experience	€18
Madame Tussauds	€22

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 18: Bruges – London (B)



After breakfast, we bid farewell to Amsterdam and make our way back to London via the Belgian city of Bruges. Famous for its beer, waffles, chocolate and moules et frites, this is definitely a good place to be if you've brought your appetite. An extremely popular medieval city with no shortage of cobblestone streets, historic old churches and lofty towers, this is a great city to explore and a good spot to pick up any last-minute souvenirs. Once you've had a look around, it's back to the coach for the final leg of our journey back to London.

Experiences

Visit Bruges: a stop in this beautiful medieval town with some free time so you could try the signature national dish of frites and moules, see or even climb the Belfry Tower, have a Belgian beer or buy some amazing Belgian chocolate.

Other Foods to try

Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate. Bruges is a chocolate hotspot!

Extra Information

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner