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## European Vistas - 8 Days

Start point: Amsterdam  
End point: Amsterdam

### DAY 1: Amsterdam (D)



Welcome to the start of your tour! Arriving in Amsterdam, you'll meet your tour at the hotel. Once you've settled in, we'll head in to the centre of Amsterdam to experience the wonders of this fascinating city with an Amsterdam canal dinner cruise. Get on board and have those cameras at the ready – this is the best way to be introduced to Amsterdam, a city of beautiful 17th Century architecture, and a charm all its own. Keep an eye out for spots to revisit later on during your free time. 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 some more, or head to Dam Square, one of the most important parts of the city.

#### Experiences

Amsterdam red light 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.

**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 different types of pizza, enjoy Ben and Jerry's ice cream, and you can also upgrade to include unlimited soft drinks, beer and wine.

## **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 Kroket, cheese, bitterballen and pastries!

## **DAY 2: Rhine Valley (B/D)**



This morning, we'll take a look at a cheese-making demonstration, revealing how cheese has been made in the traditional way in these parts for many years. Following that, we'll learn about that most quirky of Dutch footwear choices – the clog – and see how these traditional shoes are carved. Stopping off at a windmill for a photo stop, you'll be able to appreciate the iconic scenery of the Netherlands. If the season is right, look out for flowers in the fields! Continuing on to the Rhine Valley, we'll board a Rhine Valley river boat and cruise the Rhine River. Enjoy a drink on board as you sail, and admire the passing scenery. With the highest concentration of medieval castles in all of Europe, this is a memorable trip, especially with all the vineyards, cliff faces and medieval German towns! Learn more about ice wine (eiswein), an intensely sweet wine made from the juice of naturally-frozen grapes. The frozen grapes concentrate the sugars of the juice, intensifying the flavour profile. Enjoy a traditional German meal this evening, and then why not walk it all off with a stroll along the river?

## **Experiences**

River Cruise. Cruise down the Rhine and see the beautiful scenery and the largest concentration of Gothic castles (Sterrenberg, Liebestein, Katz and Fortress Rheinfels).

Traditional Crafts. Visit a cuckoo clock and beer stein-making shop.

Wine Tasting. Sample the local varieties of wine including the famous ice wine of the region.

## **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 3: Innsbruck (B/D)**



Today, we're off to Innsbruck, Austria, taking a comfort stop in Ulm on the way. This historic German city is famous not only as the birthplace of Albert Einstein, but also for having the tallest church steeple in the world! Innsbruck is one of the few places in the world that really can lay claim to having something for everyone. It's not everywhere that offers extreme sports (thanks to the close proximity of the soaring Nordkette Alps), fascinating historical heritage (courtesy of the legacy of the Habsburgs), and vibrant modern attractions too. This is where the modern urban environment meets the outdoors, with a space-age funicular taking up into the mountains in literally a matter of minutes. Once we arrive in the afternoon, we'll have dinner, after which your time is yours to explore this fascinating Austrian city. You can take the cable car to the peak of Nordkette for stunning Alpine views, visit the town square and its famous Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) or, for something a little different, visit the Swarovski Crystal Museum!

## **Experiences**

Visit Ulm. Enjoy a comfort stop in this German city, famous as the birthplace of Einstein and for having the tallest church steeple in the world!

Free time in Innsbruck. Enjoy some free time in this historic city; visit the old town square or take the cable car to the peak of Nordkette.

## **Accommodation**

AlpinPark Hotel Innsbruck

## **Other Foods to try**

Wiener Schnitzel, beef soup and Apfelstrudel.

## **DAY 4: Venice (B)**



Leaving Innsbruck behind us, we journey onward to the enchanting city of Venice. Travelling through stunning Alpine scenery, we will take a photo stop so that you can record your memories of the incredible mountain vistas spreading out before you. The timeless waterways and artistic masterpieces (more per square kilometre than anywhere else on earth) of Venice 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; see St Mark's Square, the famous Rialto Bridge and the beautiful narrow alleyways lined with shops offering unique souvenirs. The afternoon is yours to explore this unforgettable city. If you wish to take part in the true Venice experience, your tour leader will organise a gondola ride through the enchanting waterways, under the quaint bridges and between the beautiful houses that Venezia offers in abundance.

## Experiences

Walking Tour of Venice. Take in the incredible architecture of this legendary city, and get to know see of those famous landmarks in person! From the Rialto Bridge to St Mark's square, it's all here - in the city with more artistic masterpieces per square kilometer than anywhere else on earth!

## **Optional Excursions**

**Gondola Ride** €20

\* 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 5: Lucerne region (B)**



We're on our way back into Alpine territory once again today, but first we stop off in Verona for a comfort stop. The setting for the most famous love story of all time, Romeo & Juliet, one can seek out the balcony where Romeo reportedly wooed his lover. After a short stop, we continue on to Lucerne. Renowned as one of Switzerland's most beautiful cities, this is one place you'll definitely want to have your camera at the ready! All the ingredients for the quintessentially picturesque Swiss experience are here - a cobalt lake and well-preserved old-town complete with waterfront promenades, covered bridges and perfect plazas is surrounded by the natural skyscrapers of the Swiss Alps. It's really no wonder that Goethe, Queen Victoria and Wagner

savouried the stunning views that Lucerne has to offer. There's charm and grace around every corner, but it's not all about history - there's certainly enough of a pulse here to keep things current, with carnivals, concerts and exhibitions aplenty.

## **Experiences**

Comfort stop in Verona. Make the most of your time by strolling around this famous town, where the epic love tragedy Romeo and Juliet was set, and where you can still see the balcony where Romeo supposedly wooed his darling Juliet.

Free time in Lucerne. You will have some free time to enjoy this picturesque Alpine city. From the beautiful Chapel Bridge lined with flowers, to the cobalt blue lake and well-preserved old town, Lucerne is a feast for the eyes.

## **Optional Excursions**

Panorama Cable Car/Cogwheel Railway €60

\* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

## **Accommodation**

Hotel Stanserhof

## **Other Foods to try**

Luzerner Chügelipastete is the most famous example of local cuisine: a puff-pastry shell filled with diced veal and mushrooms in a creamy sauce.

## **DAY 6: Burgundy (B/D)**



Before we travel onward to Burgundy, you'll have the morning to enjoy more of the Lucerne region - why not join our Mount Pilatus optional excursion? Whether you take the world's steepest cogwheel railway from Alpnachstad or the panoramic gondolas and aerial cableway

from Kriens, you will travel up through lush meadows carpeted with Alpine flowers, past sparkling mountain streams and fascinating rock faces - the Mount Pilatus optional truly offers that unique Alpine experience! We then leave Switzerland behind and head west into France. If Paris is the place for romance, then Burgundy is the place for two other things the French - and France - are well-known for: great food and wine. You will be staying in the capital of Burgundy, Dijon. A place of tremendous wealth and power and one of the great European centres of art, learning and science, there is plenty to do in Dijon. Beyond the food and wine, this is also the place to soak up history, with excellent museums and fabulous Renaissance architecture helping to make this one of the most memorable parts of the entire tour!

## **Experiences**

Burgundy. Enjoy one of the most famous wine regions of France.

## **Accommodation**

Ibis Dijon Clemenceau  
Campanile Dijon Centre Gare

## **Other Foods to try**

Typical foods include cheese, Dijon mustard, Charolais beef and blackcurrants. Beef Burgundy, or Boeuf Bourguignon as it is known locally is the regional dish - a stew prepared with beef braised in red wine.

## **DAY 7: Paris (B/L)**



The city of lights is our next stop, as we take in the home of some of the world's most famous cultural landmarks, museums that feature some of the world's most important artworks, cafes, galleries, boutiques and more. Trying to see it all is futile, but wherever you explore will leave an impression you're likely to forget anytime soon. Whether you're strolling the boulevards, visiting stylish boutiques, admiring the artwork, exploring the famous neighbourhoods that have been home to so many of the world's great thinkers and artists or simply sitting at a street-side cafe

and watching the world go by, Paris is unforgettable. To help you make the most of your time, your tour leader can organise queue jump tickets to the River Seine Cruise and a visit to the Montparnasse tower, offering incredible views of the Paris skyline, including the Eiffel Tower! For the uniquely Parisian experience, join your tour leader on a visit to an incredible Cabaret show!

## Experiences

Driving Tour. Paris is probably the most sought-after destination in all of Europe, and it's easy to see why. Our driving tour will give you a brief introduction to the history of the city, and some of the famous landmarks. From ancient times to modern, Paris has a wealth of stories to tell. Take notes! There may be many places you'd like to see in more detail later.

## Optional Excursions

Montparnasse Tower	€14
Cabaret Show	€70-90
River Seine Cruise	€12

\* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

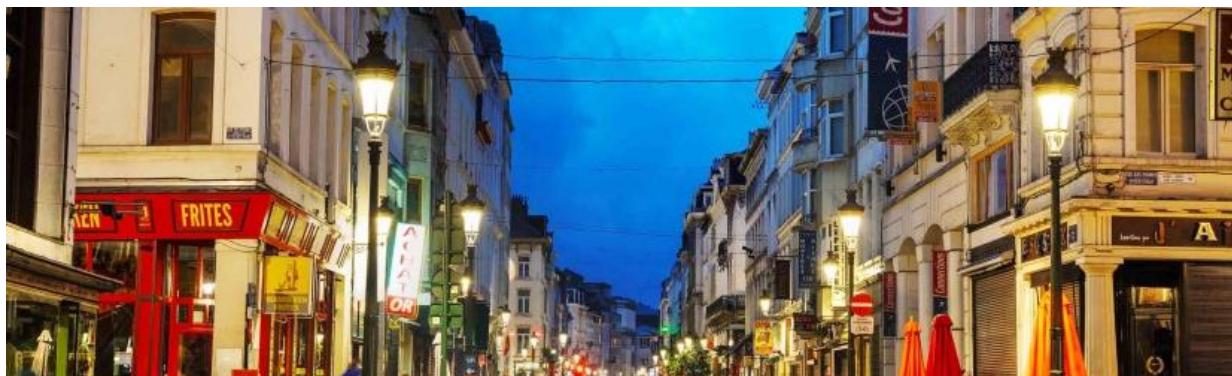
## Accommodation

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 8: Paris – Amsterdam (B)



It's the last leg of our journey already! On our way back to the Dutch capital we stop in Brussels for a comfort stop and the chance to explore the Belgian capital. Sample typical Belgian fare (moules et frites, countless varieties of beer, and of course, that famous chocolate), or wander around. Perhaps grab some last-minute souvenirs for the folks back home? We will also take a photo stop at the incredible Atomium. Originally built for the 1958 World's Fair, this unique structure makes for a truly incredible selfie opportunity! After our comfort stop, we continue on to Amsterdam, where our tour officially ends. We hope you've enjoyed this whirlwind tour of Europe!

## **Experiences**

Comfort stop in Brussels: On our way back to Amsterdam, enjoy the European capital on a comfort stop, you will have the opportunity to see the famous town square and sample the local cuisine, and take a photo of the Atomium.