



# EUROPEAN CAPITALS



*Educational  
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

23 or 25 DAYS

# European Capitals

England • The Netherlands • Germany • Austria • Italy • Switzerland • France • Spain



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

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
  - 19 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (21 with extension); plus 1 night ferry and 1 night couchette accommodations
  - European breakfast and dinner daily
  - Full-time EF Tour Director
  - 9 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: London • Amsterdam • Munich • Venice  
Vatican City • Rome • Florence • Paris • Madrid
  - 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Heidelberg • Lucerne
  - 4 walking tours: London • Munich • Rome • Paris
  - 2 orientation tours: Amsterdam • Madrid
  - 16 visits to special attractions: Anne Frank House  
Cologne Cathedral • Heidelberg Castle wine barrel  
Dachau • Doges' Palace • Glass-blowing demonstration  
Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Basilica • Colosseum  
Assisi Basilica • Duomo • Leather-making demonstration  
Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral • Royal Palace • Prado
  - Whisper headsets
- OPTIONAL:** Volendam and Zaanse Schans (seasonal)  
Pisa • Mount Pilatus • Versailles • Flamenco Evening
- WITH EXTENSION:** All of the above PLUS:
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Barcelona
  - 1 walking tour: Barcelona
  - 1 visits to a special attraction: Parque Guell



The Netherlands are closely associated with their tulips, which can be found at tulip markets, tulip gardens and tulip festivals.

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to Great Britain** • Relax as you fly 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 today's 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 Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for an orientation of St. Paul's Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

## Day 4 London

**Free time in London** • Enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Cafe or Madame Tussauds wax museum, take a cruise down the Thames or browse through the countless stores along Oxford Street. Attend a Shakespearean drama at a replica of the Globe Theatre, or visit the fascinating, hands-on exhibits of London's Natural History Museum.

**English Channel crossing** • The overnight Harwich–Hoek ferry crossing brings you across the English Channel to the Netherlands.

## Day 5 Amsterdam

**Arrival in Amsterdam** • Continue through irrigated Dutch landscapes to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands.

**Guided sightseeing of Amsterdam** • A local guide introduces you to 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.

## Day 6 Amsterdam

**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, recreated to look like a 17th- or 18th-century Dutch village. Make your way down the 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 March 15–September 30.)

**Free time in Amsterdam** • Enjoy free time to explore Amsterdam's wide range of museums, such as the Rijksmuseum. Alternatively, you can take a canal cruise.

## Day 7 Amsterdam • Heidelberg

**Transfer to Cologne** • Travel to Cologne, a town located along the Rhine and known for its scented waters—the city gave its name to the famous Eau de Cologne, created by an Italian chemist who settled here in 1709.

**Visit to Kölner Dom** • Visit one of Germany's most moving symbols: the Kölner Dom, Cologne's sublime, war-scarred Gothic cathedral. When construction was completed in 1880 after 600 years, it was the tallest building in the world—a title it held until the Washington Monument was finished four years later.

**Transfer to Heidelberg** • Arrive in Heidelberg, the heart of Romantic Germany.

## Day 8 Heidelberg • Munich

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Heidelberg**

• Become acquainted with Germany's oldest university city—the university dates back to 1386. See Heidelberg's 700-year-old *Schloss* (palace) and its famous *Fass* (wine barrel), the world's largest. From the castle's historic battlements, you'll enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where *Homo heidelbergensis* roamed 500,000 years ago. You'll also see the town's medieval streets and Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake. Writers as diverse as Mark Twain (who once floated down the Neckar on a raft) and Goethe (who was inspired by the view from the *Schloss*) have long praised Heidelberg's enduring beauty.

**Transfer to Munich** • Continue on to Munich, the Bavarian capital. "Munich" is derived from the city's German name, München (little monk), so named because the original settlement bordered a monastery.

## Day 9 Munich

**Guided sightseeing of Munich** • Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, the headquarters of BMW and the fashionable Schwabing district. You'll also pass the Residenz (once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria), the Deutsches Museum, the university and the Alte Pinakothek. Your tour concludes at Marienplatz, where you'll see the city's famed Glockenspiel.

**Excursion to Dachau** • Visit Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in 1935 and liberated by the Allies in April 1945. It now serves as a memorial museum.

**Walking tour of Munich** • Stroll through the heart of Munich as you pass the twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche, a long-standing symbol of the city. Arrive at Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes. Here you can see the neo-Gothic Rathaus and the golden Mariensäule, a monument commemorating Munich's divine salvation from rampaging Swedish hordes. Then continue past the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall.

## Day 10 Munich • Venice

**Transfer via Innsbruck** • Located at the intersection of several Alpine passes, Innsbruck is the capital of the beautiful Austrian province of Tyrol and the site of two Winter Olympics (1964 and 1976).

**Arrival in Venice** • Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo.

## Day 11 Venice

**Guided sightseeing of Venice** • Begin your tour of *La Serenissima* (the city's nickname, meaning "the most serene") at St. Mark's Square, "the finest drawing room in Europe," according to Napoleon. Allegedly buried under the altar of the basilica are St. Mark's remains, which, in the 11th century, were smuggled out of Alexandria in a barrel of salt pork to prevent a thorough search by the city's Muslim guards. Also see the Grand Canal and the 324-foot campanile (bell tower), whose steps were originally built so that a noble could ascend on horseback. Look for the clock where two bronze figures have been striking the hour for more than 500 years. Venice is also famous for its glassware—you'll see why during a glass-blowing demonstration.

**Visit to Doges' Palace** • Visit the grand 14th-century, pink-and-white Doges' Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Here, you'll stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, connecting the palace and its prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time. Casanova made a daring escape from this prison in 1756.

## Day 12 Venice • Rome

**Transfer to Rome** • Arrive in the Eternal City. Here, Charlemagne was crowned by the pope in A.D. 800.

## Day 13 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.

**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, pass by the Forum Romanum, once the heart of the Roman Empire.

**Walking tour of Rome** • As part of your walking tour of Rome, 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. Then, during free time, continue to the Piazza Navona before meeting at the Spanish Steps prior to dinner.

## Day 14 Rome • Florence

**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.

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

## Day 15 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 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. In the city's Field of Miracles, you'll see 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. Be sure to visit the adjacent cathedral and baptistry, which contain exquisite marble pulpits carved in the Gothic style by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano.

## Day 16 Florence • Lucerne Region

**Transfer to the Lucerne region** • Visit the land of folk hero William Tell as you spend the night in the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne) region.

## Day 17 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 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 motorcoach 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 18 Lucerne Region • Paris

**Transfer to Paris via Burgundy** • Travel amid the vineyards of Burgundy on your way to Paris, City of Light.

## Day 19 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.)

## Day 20 Paris • Night Train

**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.

**Night train to Spain** • Board your overnight train bound for Madrid.

## Day 21 Madrid

**Arrival in Madrid** • Arrive in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital.

**Guided sightseeing of Madrid** • Your sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain's capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent palace, built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

**Madrid orientation tour** • Your tour director continues to show you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters such as Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madrileños* who inhabit the cafés, *tascas* and flea markets that pack the city.

**Visit to the Prado** • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum's most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

## Day 22 Madrid

**Free time in Madrid** • Enjoy free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas, or sample *tapas* at a café.

**Optional Flamenco Evening** • Encounter the drama, rhythm and heartbeat of Spain at an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco is a blend of intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

## Day 23 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

## EXTENSION

### Day 23 Madrid • Barcelona

#### Transfer via AVE train from Madrid to

**Barcelona** • Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE—Alta Velocidad Española. The first AVE train was inaugurated in 1992 with the completion of the Madrid-Sevilla line. It reaches a maximum speed of over 180 miles per hour before arriving in Barcelona.

**Arrival in Barcelona** • Arrive in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Cataluña. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931, and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

**Walking tour in Barcelona** • Barcelona, known as "La Gran Encisera" (the Great Enchantress) has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on today's walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called "the most beautiful street in the world." Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

## Day 24 Barcelona

**Guided sightseeing of Barcelona** • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfinished La Sagrada Família (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí's other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain's most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, a fountain that puts on a fabulous show of water, lights and music on the weekends. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus ("Columbus" is *Colon* in Spanish). Finish at the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city, and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.

**Visit to Parque Guell** • You'll also visit the Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

## Day 25 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

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



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Itinerary subject to change.

# Discover the Global Classroom



## Educational Tours

2010/Spring