

18 DAY EUROPE TOUR

Italy France Portugal Spain

July 4th to July 22nd 2023

We understand planning a trip can be daunting. We are here so you can take it easy! With our customized guided group tour all planned and laid for you, you get your individual experience to the best of this continent making your Euro dream come true. From the floating city of Venice to the most spectacular travel destination of France, Spain, and Portugal you will get an in-depth taste of the classic and religious sites. Not forgetting attractions of Imperial Rome where you get to explore the historical, institutional, and religious aspects and learn what makes the Roman Catholic church the oldest continuing monarchy in the world. We make every effort to make your tour enliven your senses with a myriad of worthwhile experience!



DAY 1 – JULY 4 - ARRIVAL IN VENICE

Upon arrival at Venice Airport, we will meet our tour manager, board private bus and drive to the hotel. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 2 – JULY 5 - VENICE

After breakfast, we will depart our hotel by bus to reach the dock. From here, by private motorboat, we will reach Venice in 30 minutes by sea. In the morning, there will be a guided tour to see the Doge's Palace and the Basilica of St. Mark. Rest of the day at leisure for shopping, to discover the city on your own or for a gondola ride. Return to our hotel, for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 3 – JULY 6 - VENICE / FLORENCE

After breakfast and check out, we will drive approx. 3 hours to Florence. Here we will start with a walking tour through the streets of Florence stopping to visit the Duomo. We will also see Giotto Bells Tower and the Baptistery Doors, Gates of Paradise. We will continue to Signoria Square considered as an "open-air museum". Then we will visit the Franciscan church of Santa Croce, which houses the tombs of many Italian artist, among which Galileo and Michelangelo. Time at leisure for shopping at Ponte Vecchio. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 4 – JULY 7 - FLORENCE / IMPERIAL ROME

Breakfast and check out. This morning we will drive to Rome, the Eternal City. After your lunch, we will enjoy a guided tour of Imperial Rome including the Colosseum, Roman Forums, Circa Massimo and Bath of Caracalla. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B,D)



DAY 5 – JULY 8 - OSTIA ANTICA / JEWISH QUARTER AND AVENTINO HILL

Today, in the morning, we will visit the spectacular ruins of Ostia Antica, the ancient Roman port found in New Testament times. The excavations continue today and provide an insight into what Roman cities were like in the 1st century. Then we will reach the Jewish Quarter for lunch. In the afternoon we will continue visiting the Aventino Hill with the Church of St Sabina and the Orange Garden. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 6 – JULY 9 - ROMA / VATICAN GARDENS & MUSEUMS

This morning we will visit the Vatican Gardens. Then we will visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel to admire the works of Michelangelo. We will finish visiting St. Peter's Basilica, which offers the devout pilgrim an experience never to be forgotten. After lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour to see Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 7- JULY 10 - ROMA / FLIGHT TO PARIS

After breakfast and check out, we will enjoy some free time at Navona Square, with the famous Bernini's fountain of the Four Rivers, and Pantheon for some shopping. Then we will transfer to Rome airport to take a flight to Paris. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B,D)

DAY 8 – JULY 11 - FULL DAY IN PARIS

After breakfast, we will reach Montmartre to attend the Sunday Mass at Basilica of Sacre Coeur (or we can find a church where a Mass in English is celebrated) Then we will start a guided tour of Montmartre and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Notre Dame is widely considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture and among the largest and most well-known church buildings in the world. We will also visit the Saint Chapelle. Rest of the day spent at leisure for shopping or to discover the city on your own. In the evening we will enjoy a relaxing river cruise along the Seine before going to the hotel. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 9 – JULY 12 - PARIS / LOURDES BY TGV TRAIN

Breakfast and check out. As per departure time of TGV train, we will check out of hotel and reach the Church of Miraculous Medal. Later we will transfer to the train station to take TGV train to Lourdes. Upon arrival, we will drive to the hotel for check in, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 10 – JULY 13 - FULL DAY IN LOURDES

During our stay in Lourdes, we will visit the historic and spiritual sites associated with Bernadette, the visionary child of Lourdes. We begin at the Grotto of the Apparitions, and then continue a guided walking tour visiting the Basilica of St. Pius X, Boly Mill, Soubirous family home, the Basilica of the Rosary, Miraculous Spring, and the healing baths. After dinner, we will join pilgrims from around the world in the candlelight procession (B, D) (alternate site can be arranged)



DAY 11 – JULY 14 - LOURDES / LEON

Early morning breakfast and check out. Then we will depart towards Spain to reach Leon (7hrs drive)

Upon arrival, we will meet the local guide to enjoy an interesting tour of the city. The name Leon comes from the Roman Times. The city amasses some of Spain's most important historic-artistic monuments. We will stop by the Saint Marcus Monastery (now a hotel), with its fantastic front in Plateresque style bedecked with shells (the symbol of the pilgrims). Then we will visit the Cathedral, a Gothic gem and a masterpiece of architecture with the best collection of stained-glass windows in Europe (Only after Chartres). Finally, we will visit the Roman Saint Isidore Basilica, where the Tomb of Kings is kept as well as the relics of San Isidro. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 12 – JULY 15 - LEON /SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Today, after breakfast, we will continue our drive to Santiago de Compostela (5 hrs drive). Upon arrival, we will visit the tomb of St. James, the apostle who converted Spain to Christianity, located in the huge 11th century Romanesque Cathedral. We walk also in the beautiful Old Town with its plazas. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 13 – JULY 16 - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / PORTO / FATIMA

This morning, after breakfast and check out, we will continue our drive to Fatima. En route we will stop in Porto to enjoy a guided tour of the city including the St Francis Church. Free time for lunch and enjoy a tasting of the famous wine Porto. Then we will continue to Fatima. Check in at the hotel and dinner.

After dinner, we will join in the nightly rosary and candlelight procession. (B, D)

DAY 14 – JULY 17 - FULL DAY IN FATIMA (alternate site can be arranged)

Full day in Fatima. This morning we will visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, the Basilica and the tombs of Francisco, Jacinta and Sr. Lucia, and monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In Aljustrel and Valinhos, we will see the two homes of the little shepherds and site of the first and third visit of the “Angel of Peace”. We will stop at the Parish Church and the cemetery where Francisco and Jacinta were once buried. Free afternoon for personal activities.

After dinner, we will join in the nightly rosary and candlelight procession. (B, D)

DAY 15 – JULY 18 - FATIMA / LISBON

After breakfast and check out, we will drive to Lisbon. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a panoramic tour of Lisbon including the most important monuments of the city such as Tower of Belen, Monastery of St. Jeronimos, and Monument to the Discoveries. After break for lunch, some free time for shopping before going to the hotel for check in, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 16 – JULY 19 - LISBON / SEVILLA

This morning we will depart hotel and drive to Sevilla (5.5 hrs drive). Upon arrival, we will enjoy a panoramic tour of the city including Plaza de Espana, Torre del Oro, and Maestranza Bullfighting (from outside). We will also visit the Cathedral with Giralda Tower. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 17 – JULY 20 - SEVILLA / CORDOBA

After breakfast and check out, we will continue our drive towards South Spain to reach Cordova. Upon arrival we will enjoy a guided tour of the city including the Roman Bridge, the old Jewish Quarter, the Alcazar (from outside) and the Mesquita (inside). Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)



DAY 18 – JULY 21 - CORDOBA / GRANADA

Today we will depart Cordoba and drive to Granada. Upon arrival, we will visit the Alhambra (inside - *please note that we must book the tickets at least 3 months before the date of the visit*). After lunch, we will visit the city centre including the Cathedral (inside). Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 19 – JULY 22 - RETURN TO NEW ZELAND/AUSTRALIA

Breakfast and check out. Transfer to the airport to take a domestic flight to Madrid and then take the long haul flight to AUCKLAND / SYDNEY(B)