

EUROPEAN TOUR 'for singles' 45 years & over

Operated by Insight Vacations 15 August – 3 September 2010 (20 days)

ENGLAND ~ BELGIUM ~ HOLLAND ~ GERMANY ~ CZECH REPUBLIC ~ SLOVAKIA ~ HUNGARY ~ AUSTRIA ~ ITALY ~ SWITZERLAND ~ FRANCE

Fellow Passengers

There is the comfort of knowing you'll be sharing the tour with other like-minded singles as within this tour departure we have a special group booking 'for singles'.* Plus, when you book with our special group we go the extra mile and offer a pre-departure contact service to our group of guests. This diverse and cultural tour has something for everyone. It particularly appeals to guests wanting to combine the classic highlights of Europe with the two historic capitals at the heart of modern-day Eastern Europe, Prague and Budapest.

A Rendezvous for Singles Pre-Departure Contact Service: As a friendly gesture to everyone in our special group and especially as we get most bookings from solo travellers, we offer a pre-departure contact service. With your permission, we share your first name, state and email (or other preferred contact method) to the rest of our guests prior to departure. It's a popular choice with many travellers; a chance to get in touch with others prior to departure and especially others from your city of departure in Australia. This list is provided after bookings close, about eight weeks prior to departure.

** A Rendezvous for Singles has 15 places reserved on this departure for their clients. This trip may confirm more or less than 15 single travellers, subject to availability and demand. Our group booking is not exclusive and therefore there will be other guests on this tour booked via other channels and they may be single, partnered or otherwise travelling as friends. Whoever the guests on the tour, everyone in the group will have the touring spirit and this trip generally appeals to persons of 45 years and over.*

Tour Pace

This is a well paced tour with two-night stays in the eight key cities, allowing time for sightseeing, exploration at your own pace or optional excursions if you wish. The travelling days have been well planned with plenty of stops both for refreshment and photo opportunities.

Plus when you choose an Insight Vacations Premium Escorted Tour there are the added benefits of small group touring and this departure is a Preferred Departure.

Small Group Advantage: Many tour operators imply 'fewer passengers' but don't tell you that nothing has really changed. Their seating remains at 49 or 53. With an Insight premium tour, they carry an average of just 35 passengers with touring coaches configured for a maximum of 40; creating less congestion when boarding and disembarking and up to twice as much leg room.

Preferred Departure: to assist you with booking ahead, Insight Vacations have designated a number of tours as 'PD', preferred departures based on their reliable booking history.

Room Mate Matching

For people travelling alone, you can be matched with someone of the same gender on the tour, so you don't have to pay the single room supplement. If a match is not possible, a single room will be provided at no extra cost. Please note there is a no-smoking policy in all shared rooms.

Additional Visa Requirements – Australian Passport Holders

Special visas are required for some Eastern European countries. However for the Eastern European countries included on this itinerary, visas do not have to be obtained in advance. For Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia, immigration at destination to determine number of entries and length of stays. A visa not required for stays of up to 90 days in the Schengen area.

As of 21/12/07 the following countries are member states of the Schengen: agreement: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (from 12/12/08)



Premium Highlights

- Embark on a scenic Rhine Cruise past sleepy villages, leafy vineyards and cliff-top castles
- In Vienna, walk in the steps of royalty with your local guide as you visit Schonbrunn Palace
- Enjoy a fascinating gondola ride along the romantic canals in Venice
- Admire the art treasures of the Popes on your visit to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
- Explore the wonders of ancient Rome as you overlook the Forum and visit the Colosseum
- Enjoy an exhilarating ride by cog-wheel train and cable-car to the summit of Mount Pilatus
- Ascend by elevator to the viewing platforms of the Eiffel Tower for a panoramic view of Paris

Departs from and returns to London.

This tour departs from the Park Plaza Victoria hotel, the recommended pre/post tour hotel.

Day 1 - LONDON - BRUSSELS

Drive to Dover and bid farewell to the *white cliffs* as you cross the channel to France. Continue to medieval *Bruges*. Follow the picturesque *canals* and *cobbled streets* to the *Market Square*, with its octagonal *bell tower*. Then it's on to Brussels with its *gilded buildings in the Grand Place* and *Mannekin Pis statue*. *During your stay your Tour Director will introduce you to the world of Belgian beer!* Handy to know at tonight's *Welcome Drink*.

Hotel: Royal Windsor Grand Place.

Day 2 - BRUSSELS - AMSTERDAM

Drive to *Amsterdam* and pass *Dam Square* and the *Mint tower* en route to a *demonstration of diamond cutting*. Visit the *fishing village of Volendam* and learn how clogs and cheese are made before returning to Amsterdam.

Hotel: Moevenpick City Centre. (BB)

Day 3 - AMSTERDAM - WÜRZBURG

Head into Germany to see *Cologne's soaring Gothic cathedral*. Continue via *Bonn* to the scenic *Rhine Gorge* to join your *Highlight cruise*. *Glide past vineyards and medieval castles* to see the *Loreley Rock* before continuing on to *Würzburg* with its Baroque *Residenz palace*, *Marienberg fortress* and *statue-lined bridge*.

Hotel: Maritim. (BB,D)

Day 4 - WÜRZBURG - PRAGUE

Stop in *Nuremberg* to see the charming blend of stone and timbered dwellings and the *massive town ramparts* before continuing east to the Czech border. Pass *Pilsen*, known for its beer, to reach the 'golden city' of *Prague*.

Hotel: Diplomat. (BB,D)

Day 5 - PRAGUE SIGHTSEEING

A *local guide* introduces the 1,000-year-old *Prague Castle* and *St Vitus' Cathedral* before descending to the *Old Town Square*, with its *Astronomical Clock*. Later, there is time to shop for fine Bohemian crystal. (BB)

Day 6 - PRAGUE - BUDAPEST

Drive through the wine-producing area of South Moravia into Slovakia and stop in its fortified capital, *Bratislava*. After free time to explore, cross into Hungary and follow the River Danube to Budapest.

Hotel: Hilton West End. (BB)

Day 7 - BUDAPEST SIGHTSEEING

With a *Budapest guide*, climb up to the old Castle District. See the *murals in Matthias Church* beside the *Fisherman's Bastion*, which affords a grand *view over the Danube and the Parliament*. See the *Royal Palace of Buda*, then cross over to Pest to visit *Heroes' Square*. Spend the afternoon at leisure. (BB,D)

Day 8 - BUDAPEST - VIENNA

Heading out of Budapest, *survey the bridges over the Danube* from the *lofty citadel* atop *Gellert Hill*. Continue through peaceful farmland, dotted with orchards and vineyards to the austrian border and Vienna.

Hotel: Hilton Plaza. (BB)

Day 9 - VIENNA SIGHTSEEING

A Premium Highlight visit takes you inside the fabulous Schönbrunn Palace. On a guided city tour, see the Parliament, Winter Palace and Opera House along the Ring Road . Finish with an explanation of the history and culture of the Viennese café. (BB)

Day 10 - VIENNA - VENICE

Cross over the Semmering Pass and across the border into Italy. Arrive at your hotel on Venice's fashionable Lido.

Hotel: Grande Albergo Ausonia & Hungaria. (BB,D)

Day 11 - VENICE SIGHTSEEING

Cruise by private launch to St Mark's Square to see the Doges' Palace, Bridge of Sighs and St Mark's Basilica, followed by a Venetian glass-blowing demonstration. Enjoy a fascinating Highlight gondola ride along the canals. The afternoon is at leisure. (BB)

Day 12 - VENICE - ROME

Head south into the Apennine Mountains and follow the course of the Tiber to the Eternal City of Rome. As night falls, join your fellow passengers for a Dine-Around evening of local cuisine offered from a selection of restaurants. Enjoy a short group tutorial on the wines that compliment your evening meal.

Hotel: UNA Hotel Roma. (BB,DA)

Day 13 - ROME SIGHTSEEING

Join a local guide to visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, complete with a Tour of St Peter's Basilica to see Michelangelo's the Pieta. Now cross the Tiber to visit the Colosseum and see the Forum. The afternoon is at leisure. (BB)

Day 14 - ROME - FLORENCE

Head north into the peaceful landscapes of Tuscany, driving to Piazzale Michelangelo for views over Florence. After a leather-work demonstration, spend the afternoon exploring this beautiful city.

Hotel: Cosmopolitan. (BB,D)

Day 15 - FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING

A local guide takes you to Santa Croce Basilica to see the tombs of Galileo and Michelangelo. Continue to the lofty Cathedral where Giotto's 14C Campanile is said to be the most beautiful bell-tower in the world. See the ' Gates of Paradise ' on the Baptistry and visit Signoria Square with its open-air gallery of Renaissance sculpture . (BB)

Day 16 - FLORENCE - LUCERNE

Head north through the scenic Italian Lake District, glimpsing Lake Como as you cross into Switzerland. Enjoy magnificent mountain scenery as you travel on to lake-side Lucerne.

Hotel: Astoria. (BB)

Day 17 - LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING

Walk with your Tour Director to the emotive Lion Monument, carved into a cliff to commemorate the Swiss Guards who lost their lives during the French Revolution. Spend time shopping or strolling along the Chapel Bridge to the richly ornate Jesuit Church. Embark on a Premium Highlight excursion to the summit of one of Switzerland's most famous mountains, Mount Pilatus. Admire the views over the snow-capped Jungfrau and Eiger peaks before returning to Lucerne. (BB,D)

Day 18 - LUCERNE - PARIS

Leave Switzerland and skirt the Jura Mountains into the Burgundy wine region before continuing on to Paris.

Hotel: Pullman Paris Bercy. (BB)

Day 19 - PARIS SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing with a local guide shows you the highlights of the city. See the Gothic Notre Dame cathedral, then drive past the immense facades of the Louvre to the Place de la Concorde, its centre occupied by a giant Egyptian obelisk. Continue along the elegant Champs Élysées to Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe. Now ascend the Eiffel Tower for fine views over Paris. The afternoon is at leisure; perhaps some shopping or visit the superb Louvre museum? (BB)

Day 20 - PARIS - LONDON

Cross the battlefields of World War One en route to Calais and your voyage back to Dover. The tour ends after a short drive back to London. The tour will return late afternoon, early evening. We recommend onward journeys are planned for the next day. (BB)

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

- Pay In Full 10 Months Prior To Your Tour departure date and SAVE \$435
- Pay In Full 6 Months Prior To Your Tour departure date and SAVE \$290

Tours must be paid in full for this discount to apply. Discounts apply to the land-only portion of your tour.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS LONDON

Transfers can be expensive, particularly between the airport and your central London tour hotel, so Insight Vacations has negotiated rates with National Express Dot2Dot from London Heathrow to allow you to arrange your own airport transfers before travelling, thus saving time and hassle when you arrive. Prices for Dot2Dot shuttle transfers between London Heathrow Airport and your Insight London hotel are A\$40 per person, each way.

Flight information must be provided to Insight Vacations no less than 21 days prior to departure. Once transfers are booked they cannot be changed. You must stay at a London hotel booked by Insight on the night of your arrival and the night prior to your departure date. National Express Dot2Dot will pick up and drop off in time to meet all flights to/from London's Heathrow Airport. For guests arriving at the Dot2Dot desk after 22.00 please make use of the courtesy phone to arrange your transfer to your Insight hotel. See below for transfer conditions.