



*Tour Information*

*The specialists in designing individualised European travel experiences.*

## Luxury Tours for Independent Travellers

Choose from a smorgasbord of unique travel experience options and we will design your very own tailor-made European holiday of a lifetime.

Add extra days, sightseeing, experiences or excursions. As an independent traveller you can even undertake the tour in either direction, take a detour or a break in the tour to do 'your own thing' for a while, like hiring a car in Tuscany or Provence to explore the hills and villages to create a truly individualised and unique itinerary.



*Highlights of Europe*





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*Highlights*

15 DAYS | LONDON | PARIS | PROVENCE | NICE | CINQUE TERRE | VENICE | ROME

## London

Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guards, Tower of London, Piccadilly Circus, Westminster Abbey, Soho, historic pubs, Hyde Park. Travelling on the Eurostar to Paris.

## Paris

Viewing the city from the Eiffel Tower and Montmartre, tree shaded cafes and bars along the wide boulevards, Champs Elysee and Arc de Triomphe at night, stroll along the banks of the river Seine. Travelling in one of the world's fastest trains from Paris to Nice.



## Nice and Provence

The azure blue sea of the Bay of Angels of the French Riviera, flower market and cobble-stoned passageways of 'Old Nice'. The excursion to the lavender fields and beautiful villages of Provence. Nearby Monaco or Cannes with their yachts, villas, casino, Formula One Grand Prix circuit, delightful Antibes or the stars' handprints at the Cannes Film Festival Palace. The train ride along the picturesque Côte d'Azur to Cinque Terre.

## Cinque Terre

The dramatic view of the Mediterranean Sea and the tiny picturesque fishing villages from the terraced vineyards, the red cliffs of Monterosso, walking the Via Dell'Amore, the Gulf of Poets.

## Venice

Canale Grande and gondolas, St. Mark's Square, the Doges' Palace and the Bridge of Sighs, glass blowing factory, losing yourself in the labyrinth of canals, bridges and cobble-stoned alleyways.

## Rome

Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, Colosseum and Roman Forum, Spanish Steps, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain.

## Highlights of Europe

## Prices & Inclusions

### Accommodation

- 14 nights in first class, 4 star hotels, some in historical buildings.

### Travel

- Eurostar train tickets with reserved standard class seats between London and Paris.
- 1st class train tickets between destinations in continental Europe except for Nice to Monaco (20 minutes) where only 2nd class is available. Seat reservations where required.
- Airport transfer to hotel with pre-paid Underground railway ticket on arrival.

### Meals

- 14 full breakfasts.
- 3-course provencale meal in Nice.
- Dinner in Venice with spectacular views across the lagoon to St.Marks.

### Sightseeing and Excursions

- Sightseeing with a double-decker 'hop-on-hop-off' bus in London, Paris and Rome. (In Rome you can choose the '3 hour Classic Rome Tour' instead of the 'Hop-on-hop-off' bus)
- 'Changing of the Guards' at Buckingham Palace walking tour.
- 'Rock 'n Roll' or 'Jack the Ripper' walking tour in London.
- Cruise on the river Thames in London.
- Priority tickets (no queuing) for the Eiffel Tower.
- Tour of the lavender fields and villages in Provence from Nice.
- Cinque Terre trail pass.
- 2-day Venice canal boat pass.
- Sight seeing with professional local guide in Venice.
- Canal boat excursion to Murano and visit to glass blowing artisans.
- 3-day transport pass in Rome.
- Admission into the Colosseum (priority entry ticket), Roman Forum and the Galleria Borghese.

**Tour prices 2012** (All prices are per person. Single and Triple share travellers please note that some changes to inclusions are necessary in particular at peak holiday times. Please contact us for details.)

London to Rome. 15 days/14 nights

Single: AUD \$5450  
Twin share: AUD \$3750  
Triple share: AUD \$3450

**Surcharges apply if travelling during holidays, New Years Eve, Venice Carneval, Bastille Day, arrival of the Tour de France in Paris or other local events. If staying in Nice during the Monaco Grand Prix or the Cannes Film Festival a surcharge of \$150 per person per night will apply. If travelling from London to Paris on Friday/Saturday/Sunday an extra charge may apply. These prices and tour information are correct at the time of the website going live, however are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.**

**We also cater for families and groups. Prices by application.**

**Upgrades to superior luxury accommodation can be arranged on request at extra cost.**

## Highlights of Europe

## Itinerary

As these tours are for independent travellers they can commence at any time of the year.

*(Inclusions in italics)*



### Day 1 - London

After your long flight your first experience of England will be the London Underground, 'The Tube'. *The 'Piccadilly Line' will whisk you from your arrival terminal directly to your hotel in the heart of the city.*

### Day 2 - London

Explore the city and its many famous sites in a double-decker 'hop-on hop-off' bus. The tour is guided and audio-enhanced. Watch the *'Changing of the Guards' at Buckingham Palace during a guided walking tour.* See the Tower, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street and St. Paul's Cathedral. Stroll through Hyde Park, Soho, Notting Hill, Piccadilly Circus or along the Thames. In the afternoon choose from either the *'Rock 'n Roll'* or *'Jack the Ripper'* walking tour. Enjoy High Tea at Claridge's or a drink in a historic pub. Relax in the evening and view some of London's attractions, the London Eye and Big Ben, from the comfort of a *river cruise boat.* See London Options for extra sightseeing and extensions on our website.

### Day 3 - Paris

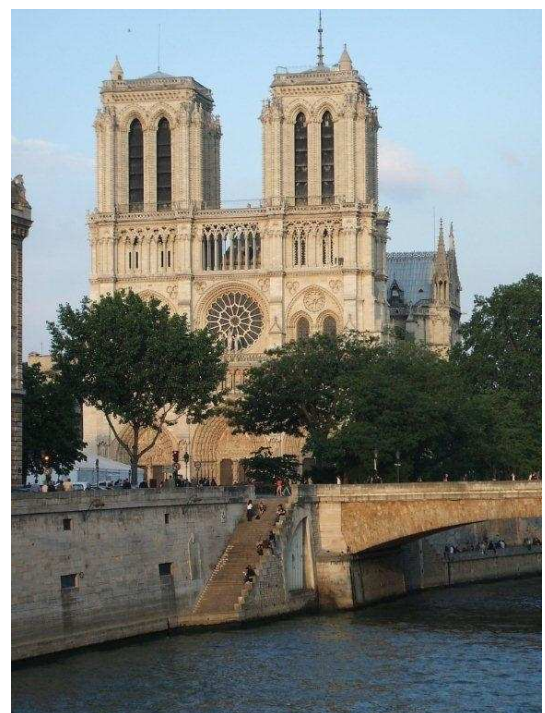
Your reserved seat in the high-speed Eurostar train awaits you within just 3 minutes walking from your hotel to take you in only 2 ½ hours to Paris. Start the familiarization of the city with the *'Paris Grand Tour'* and enjoy the view from the open top deck of the sightseeing bus with a local, multi-lingual tour guide. See the Champs-Elysee, Louvre, Notre-Dame, Eiffel Tower, Palais Royal and many other attractions.

### Day 4 - Paris

View the city in all its glory from the viewing platform of the iconic *Eiffel Tower.* Then spend some time to explore the many treasures of Paris, Montmartre, Sacre Coeur or the many open-air fresh food, collectibles and arts markets and take the *'Grand Boulevard Tour'.* In the evening enjoy a meal and some music in the Latin Quarter.

### Day 5 - Paris

The day is yours to spend at your leisure. Visit the vibrant open air markets, spend the day at Versailles or knock yourself out at EuroDisney. See Paris Options for extra sightseeing and extensions on our website.



## Day 6 - Nice

Be exhilarated by the speed of *the super-fast train that takes you from Paris to Nice*. After arriving in Nice take a stroll along the Promenade de Anglais and enjoy the azure blue sea of the Bay of Angels. In the evening enjoy a 3-course *provencale dinner*.

## Day 7 - Nice and the Provence

The *full-day bus trip into Provence* will be one of the many highlights of your holiday. In Cannes walk the famous Croisette Boulevard by the Film Festival Palace. Then be driven through the charming countryside of Provence to Grasse, world capital of the perfume industry, for a *guided tour* of a perfumery or free time to visit the old town. View the Alps, valleys and spectacular coastline from the amazing perched medieval village of Gourdon. After lunch winding down charming Loup Gorges, and taste Riviera's specialty flower sweets at traditional Florian Confectionary. Photo stop by a provençal jewel: Tourrettes-sur-Loup. End the tour in the second most visited village in France: St Paul de Vence with ancient cobblestone lanes, fortified walls and art galleries, home of impressionist painters.



## Day 8 - Nice

The day is yours to just relax or to explore more of the surrounding countryside. In the morning make your way into 'Old Nice' and be overwhelmed by the abundance of the colours and fragrances of the flower and food market. In the afternoon take some local transport to Monaco/Monte Carlo – see the palace, luxurious Monte Carlo casino, mega yachts, chic boutiques, Formula One Grand Prix circuit or on to the ramparts of charming Antibes or take a short cruise to St. Tropez. See Nice options for extra sightseeing and extensions on our website.

## Day 9 - Cinque Terre

After a *brehtaking train ride along the Côte d'Azur* arrive in La Spezia and the Bay of Poets, your base from where you explore the Cinque Terre.

## Day 10 - Cinque Terre

Walk the scenic Via Dell'Amore that connects the 5 villages of Cinque Terre and take in the dramatic views of the coastline and fishing villages. Taste one of Liguria's specialties – razor clam soup in nearby Porto Venere and take a boat trip to the tiny island of Palmaria and its grottoes. See Cinque Terre Options for extensions. See Lake Como side extension or Florence side extension for an optional detour on our website.



## Day 11 - Venice

Stepping out from the Venice Santa Lucia train station will make you feel that you have arrived on a movie set. Nothing can prepare you for that first moment when you see Venice and the Canale Grande spread out before you. Spend the day in awe just walking around and losing yourself in Venice and its tiny cobble-stoned alleyways, canals, bridges and piazzas. Dine *in a lagoon front restaurant with spectacular views over to Venice.*

## Day 12 - Venice

Choose between one of 3 walking tours: *The 'Hidden Venice Walking tour', the 'Venice Walking tour with St. Mark's Basilica' or in the evening the 'Venice Ghost walking tour'.* In the afternoon enjoy a *canal cruise to the island of Murano* and a visit to a glass blowing factory.

## Day 13 - Rome

The 'Grand Final' of your tour – arrival in Rome. You will be staying right in the heart of the city, close to the Trevi fountain and the Spanish steps. Choose from either exploring the city and some of Rome's best known ancient sights, the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Capitoline Hill, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona in the afternoon with a *'hop-on-hop-off' bus* or with a 3 hour *'Ancient Rome Walking Tour'* led by a local guide (in English).

## Day 14 - Rome

During your 3 days in Rome (day 13 – 15) you will also have the *'Roma Pass'*, which entitles you for *admission into 2 of the historic sights, like the Colosseum and Roman Forum, free transport* in the inner city, and a reduction in admission fees for most other attractions.

## Day 15 - Rome

On this last day make use of your 'Roma Pass' to see as much as you can, to travel all over the city and to savour every moment.



**Average travel time between destinations: 4 hours and 45 minutes.**

## Highlights of Europe

## Hotels

### London

#### Hotel Megaro \*\*\*\*

A sanctuary in the bustling heart of St Pancras: an oasis of fine wine and cuisine; luxury accommodation and customized service. London's many interesting and spectacular attractions are easily accessible from the Megaro Hotel. The stylish rooms have an espresso coffee machine and free Wi-Fi access. 100m to St Pancras train station (Eurostar departure point). <http://www.hotelmegaro.co.uk/>

### Paris

#### Crowne Plaza Paris République \*\*\*\*

Is a unique building with a magnificent inner courtyard, easily accessible and only a few minutes away from all major attractions, Notre Dame Cathedrale, Montmartre and the Eiffel Tower. Parisian people love going around the numerous bars, restaurants and shops that surround the Place de la République. Distance to Eurostar train station: 3 metro stops or a short taxi ride.

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/PARDL?hotelCode=PARDL>

#### Hotel Banke \*\*\*\* (upgrade option)

Superior four-star boutique hotel in the centre of Paris, located in the Opera district, the very heart of Paris. The interior with its cream and chocolate tones, parquet flooring, plaited leather rugs, damask leather headboards, designer furniture and beautiful marble in the bathrooms will take your breath away. An exquisite Art collection is spread across all floors featuring treasures of art from all cultures in history. Distance to train station: 1.5km.

<http://www.derbyhotels.com/Banke-Hotel-Paris>



### Nice/Cote d'Azur

#### Hotel Le Grimaldi \*\*\*\*

Enjoying an enviable position at the foot of the Chateau Grimaldi and only a few meters from the sea you can easily reach the surrounding beaches as well as 'Old Nice' and the harbour.

This sumptuous accommodation has a typical Provencal atmosphere. With a beautiful terrace, gastronomic restaurant and jazz bar, Hotel Le Grimaldi has a peaceful and warm ambience for the perfect holiday on the French Riviera. Distance to train station: 600m.

<http://www.le-grimaldi.com/>



### Cinque Terre/La Spezia

#### My One Hotel La Spezia \*\*\*\*

In the heart of the 'Golfo dei Poeti' (Gulf of the Poets), MOH La Spezia sits amidst this inspirational landscape; a modern and elegant structure at the centre of this historic and enchanting port city. The central location allows you to step straight out into the lively to-and-fro of the city's bars and shops and explore Cinque Terre. The rooms have refined furnishing and free WiFi. 5 minutes walk to train station, ferry and beaches. <http://www.myonehotel.it/eng/laspezia/default.asp>



## Cinque Terre/Monterosso Hotel La Colonnina \*\*\* (upgrade)

The delightful Hotel La Colonnina is located in the historic heart close to the main town square, a short distance from the sea, small harbour and the footpaths which connect Monterosso to the other towns of the Cinque Terre. From the hotel rooftop terrace as well as from some of the private hotel room terraces you have spectacular views of Monterosso and the Mediterranean Sea.

<http://www.lacolonninacinqueterre.it/en/home.html>



## Rome

### Hotel IQ \*\*\*\*

Free Wi-Fi and flat-screen satellite TV are standard in all IQ rooms. This modern hotel offers a free gym, sauna and rooftop terrace, 5 minutes' walk from Termini Train Station. Breakfast is buffet style, and can be enjoyed on the roof terrace with views of the nearby Opera House. Coin-operated laundry facilities are available in the hotel. <http://www.iqhotelroma.it/en/>

### Hotel Artemide\*\*\*\* (upgrade option)

Exclusive and inspiring. From the instant that you walk through the lobby, with its panoramic stained-glass skylight dome, you begin to feel Rome's vibrant atmosphere and magnificent history. The rooms are exquisitely furnished in warm earth tones. Free mini bar. Distance to train station: 500m.

<http://www.hotelartemide.it/en/home.html>



## Venice

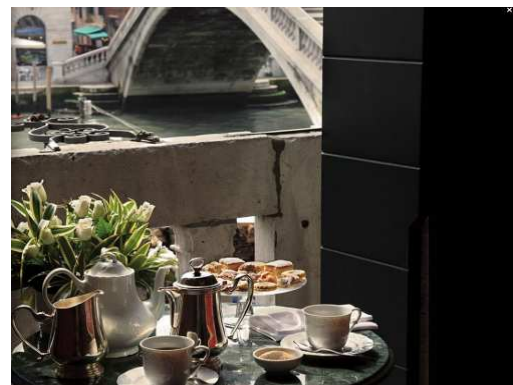
### Hotel Villa Laguna \*\*\*\*

Villa Laguna is the result of a careful restoration of an old Habsburg mansion dating back to the early 1900s. The hotel faces the heart of Venice and you will have breathtaking views from the hotel towards St. Mark's Square. With your 2-day canal boat ticket you can criss-cross the canals, visit Murano and also escape the crowds in 10 minutes to your very special hotel on the Lido. Canal boat connection from in front of the train station directly to your hotel. [www.hotelvillalaguna.it/Hotel\\_Villa\\_Laguna/Welcome.html](http://www.hotelvillalaguna.it/Hotel_Villa_Laguna/Welcome.html)

### Hotel Boscolo Bellini \*\*\*\* (upgrade option)

The Boscolo luxury Hotel Bellini is situated in an elegant 18th-century patrician palazzo in the Cannareggio quarter, transformed into an hotel at the turn of the last century. Inside, the luxurious splendour of the 18th and 19th centuries lives on in the ancient marbles and Murano glass chandeliers, all set against rich period decor.

Easy to reach and overlooking the Grand Canal, the Hotel Bellini is just a walking distance from Saint Mark Square, the heart of the city, in an area abounding in shops and restaurants. <http://www.bellini.boscolohotels.com/>



*Travel in Style*

*Comfort & Luxury*

## Travelling

Travel in style in Europe's luxurious superfast trains and arrive relaxed and in next to no time at your holiday destinations. Comfortable, fast and stress free. Enjoy the spacious seats, plenty of leg room, ability to move around and the magnificent views from the comfort of your reserved first class seat, the dining car or a standard seat in the famous Eurostar. Travel by coach between Venice and Austria. No early morning starts and no late afternoon arrivals at the next destination.



## Accommodation

Your luxurious hotels will not just be a comfortable place to stay at but will be a feature in itself and enhance your European experience – the hotel with views to the Alps, a lakeside hotel, a renovated 17<sup>th</sup> Century building right in the heart of the cities, close to all the historic sites and within 'strolling' distance of restaurants and cafes. Step out of the front door of your hotel and be surrounded by the sounds, sights, music and ambience of the town. Your hotel will also be a place to retreat to - be that in a peaceful inner courtyard, a lakeside terrace, a garden, or rooftop terrace.

## Food

Taste the regional specialties. Your tour dinners feature the best of local produce and flavours. We will also provide you with information prior to your departure on local markets, restaurants, wine taverns or little 'hole in the wall' eateries that you might like to check out.

## Atmosphere and sights

You will have ample time to explore and become familiar with each place as you are not spending a lot of travelling time getting from one destination to the next and staying 2 nights minimum everywhere. All of us have our own preferred way of how and what to see in a city and how much time to spend where. We have therefore given you sightseeing options to choose from that will fit your personal preferences.

## Hassle free travelling

We take care to plan and organize your holiday in every detail and to your personal liking. Just pack your bags, get on the plane and enjoy a stress-free and well paced holiday. Our programs are a well-balanced mix of magnificent architecture but also markets, river or lake cruises, walks in the countryside, themed excursions or strolls along rivers and little cobble-stoned alleyways.





## Independent travelling

You are travelling as independent travellers, with your own tickets, reservations, detailed itinerary, directions, timetables, admission tickets, maps etc. Every day will be quite clearly laid out in your itinerary, with train departure and arrival times, seat reservation details, destination information, directions and maps where sightseeing tours will leave from or how to get to or from the train station to your hotel, usually in easy walking distance. The various sightseeing tours at your destinations will be pre-booked and we will provide you with detailed information regarding the time and content of the tour, and departure points.

## Communication

Travelling in Europe, in particular Western Europe, you will find that you won't have any communication problems as good English is widely spoken. Sharing of local knowledge and insights into the culture and history of the country you are visiting, usually provided by a tour leader, will be available during your sightseeing tours by local expert guides.

## Increased flexibility and choices

Having your own tickets gives you more flexibility. For example in Venice if you want to see the glass blower artisans on of Murano and your travelling partner prefers to take the canal boat to the Lido you can do that - it's your choice. If you happen to fall ill and prefer to stay for another day you can catch the train the next day as your train ticket will be valid for up to two months. (Obviously you would have to pay for the extra day in the hotel and another train seat reservation). The usual departure time for the train is around 10 am, giving you plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast.

## The choice is yours

We ensure that our tours are planned and organized with attention to every detail and we feel confident that you will find that everything works smoothly. You will have the advantage of the substantial savings of the 'self-guided' tour price and you can choose to use these savings to splash out on some exciting optional travel experiences, like extra excursions, pamper treatments or indulging in some regional delicacies.



## Tailor Made

## About Us

Many years of travelling, living in various countries in Europe and intensive research of travel destinations have inspired us to create the tours in our program. Our personal experience has taught us that rushing from one place to the next is not the best way to experience a different culture. To enjoy every moment and have a truly memorable holiday one needs to travel at a leisurely pace.

We know that a holiday has to be well structured and balanced – not just a string of major European cities with their magnificent architecture. And we also know that tastes and preferences in regards to travel experiences vary greatly – while one traveller might want to spend an entire day in Paris at the Louvre another traveller would rather spend the day at EuroDisney. Our concept of self-guided, individualised tours can accommodate both with ease.

### **And this is what makes our tours unique.**

We realize that not everyone wants to experience Europe with 40 other travellers in a bus on the exact same itinerary. Or – at the other end of the spectrum – not everyone wants to hire a car and make their own way, driving on the highways and into the cities of Europe.

That's why we have chosen the comfort and flexibility of train travel for you.

Travelling in Europe's super fast trains nevertheless gives you the feeling of 'slow travel', as you have more time at each destination and never rush from place to place. We have designed the itineraries so that most mornings you will leave at about 10am and on average your travel time between destinations ranges from 2 ½ hours to 4 hours and 20 minutes, depending on your tour.

We are continually researching and visiting the destinations on the tours to ensure that all the services you receive are of the absolute highest standard.

As a registered travel agency and member of the Australian Travel Compensation Fund you can have the peace of mind that your money is secure and you will not find yourself stranded and without tickets or valid reservations. The Travel Compensation Fund has an ongoing financial monitoring system in place that helps prevent the failure of a participating travel agency. In the case of a financial collapse of the participating travel agency however, eligible travellers are provided with compensation through the TCF if the traveller has suffered a financial loss.

**Our Travel Compensation Fund Number is: 10067**

<http://www.tcf.org.au/index.as>

**Our Travel Agent Number is: 3402878**

<http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/travel-agent-licence-check.htm>

## Tailor Made

## Terms & Conditions

**See our website for detailed Terms and Conditions.**

Main page photo and various other photos throughout the brochure are by Jason Cook of [www.jasoncookphotography.com.au](http://www.jasoncookphotography.com.au)