



TRIP ITINERARY

WINTER WONDER 2010 - 2011

14 days, 8 countries

Be amazed by Europe in the winter! History, culture, cuisine, stunning landscapes and the nightlife of this great continent! Climb the Eiffel Tower, explore the Colosseum and cycle like the Dutch in Amsterdam! Do it all with the services of our expertly trained Topdeck road crew, on a modern European coach, and with a group of like-minded young travelling companions - our 'Winter Wonder' trip is sure to leave you with memories that will last a lifetime!

DAY 1 LONDON TO PARIS, FRANCE

An early morning departure from London to join the ferry from Dover to Calais. There will be an opportunity on board the ferry to exchange some money into Euros, the main currency required for the trip. On arrival in Calais we meet our coach and make our way to Paris and our hotel accommodation. After dinner we head into "The City of Lights" for a spectacular night light tour. Paris is renowned for its beauty, which will be evident as we pass some of the many famous sights along the River Seine. This comprehensive city tour takes us past the Place de la Concorde, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and much more.

DAY 2 PARIS

We have plenty of free time to explore the sights of Paris at our own pace - Notre Dame Cathedral, the Georges Pompidou Centre, the Louvre or the impressive Musee D'Orsay. A great way to see this spectacular city is on a bicycle tour. Wander through the shops on Rue de Rivoli or spend the afternoon in a sidewalk cafe. After an authentic Parisian meal, take an optional Seine River cruise or see one of the oldest cabaret shows in Paris at the famous 'Paradis Latin'.
(B,D)

DAY 3 PARIS TO SWISS ALPS

This morning we depart Paris and travel through the French countryside to stunning Switzerland. After the border formalities, we head on through the beautiful Swiss countryside, taking in the majestic Swiss Alps and the crystal clear waters of Lake Lucerne. Tonight we enjoy a traditional Swiss dinner. (B, D)

DAY 4 SWISS ALPS

Enjoy a day in Lucerne, a traditional Swiss town full of architectural jewels to visit such as the Lion Monument, Chapel Bridge and Water Tower. The shopping and eating are second to none! (B, D)

DAY 5 SWISS ALPS TO FLORENCE, ITALY

We move from the mountain beauty of Switzerland southwards in to Italy, where we have ample time to take in the wonderful countryside, culture, and cuisine of this fantastic country. Our first overnight stop is fabulous Florence, birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and a city full of artistic treasures! Tonight we get to enjoy our first sample of delicious Italian cookery! (B, D)

DAY 6 FLORENCE TO ROME

Get your walking boots on! This morning we enjoy a tour of Florence with an experienced local guide, hearing tales of the incredible Renaissance period and the luminaries who made the city so important, such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. The spectacular Duomo, Ponte Vecchio bridge and the famous statue of David will all take the breath away in this most beautiful of places.

Our short drive to Rome gives you time to edit those photos – because you'll need some space on your camera for this afternoon! Our walking tour with our Topdeck Trip Leader takes in the full majesty of this iconic city, centre of the Roman Empire. The mighty Colosseum, towering Pantheon, the opulent Trevi Fountain and bombastic Victor Emmanuel II Monument are all to be seen as we make our way through the 'Eternal City'. (B)

DAY 7 ROME

This morning we visit the Vatican City, home of the Catholic faith. There is an option to take a guided tour of Vatican City, the world's smallest state and home of the Catholic religion. An experienced guide can show us the treasures of the Vatican Museums, the world famous Sistine Chapel with its ceiling frescoes by Michelangelo, and inside the world's largest church, the incredible St Peter's Basilica.

The rest of the day is ours to indulge in the sights and sounds of Rome - an architect's dream, a shopper's paradise and food fan's delight! You could take a tour of the Colosseum or ancient Roman Forums, join the locals lounging on the famous Spanish Steps, shop 'til you drop on the exclusive Via Condotti, or simply relax in a local restaurant with a wood-fire pizza and a glass of red wine! (B)

DAY 8 ROME TO VENICE

Today we move on from one unique city to another – Venice! On the way we stop at Verona, home of the tragic lovers Romeo and Juliet with time to check out Juliet's balcony. This evening we settle in to our hotel and enjoy an included group dinner, after which there is always the option of sampling the local nightlife! (B, D)

DAY 9 VENICE

This morning we head in to Venice itself, a city consisting of a dizzying array of islands, interconnected by countless bridges, and serviced by a beautiful network of canals – there really is no other city like it on earth! We make our way to St Mark’s Square with its magnificent basilica, and then pay a visit to a local lace school to see how these delicate masterpieces are created by the talented Venetians. An optional ride on a gondola is a must do being the traditional (and most romantic) way to navigate the waterways that link this great city. The rest of the day is ours to spend how we wish. (B)

DAY 10 VENICE TO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

This morning we leave Italy and head upwards – literally - as we make our way in to the Austrian city Salzburg with a view out the window to rival Switzerland. The city known for ‘The Sound of Music’ and home to composer Wolfgang Mozart, offers us an alpine setting for our overnight stay in Austria. Our walking tour unveils magnificent baroque architecture all around and medieval Hohensalzburg Castle sits on a hill above the Old Town with spectacular views across the city. (B, D)

DAY 11 SALZBURG TO HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

Willkommen zum Deutschland! Welcome to Germany! Heidelberg is a popular University City humming with activity and dominated by the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. With so many students in the city there are over 300 bars to choose from – finding a delicious German beer is never too difficult! (B, D)

DAY 12 HEIDELBERG TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Our trip moves on to the Netherlands, famous for many things- cheese, clogs, windmills and bikes may spring to mind! On arrival cosmopolitan Amsterdam beckons so our walking tour takes us into the heart of the city, Dam Square, as well as the famous Red Light district! (B)

DAY 13 AMSTERDAM

This morning we have a Topdeck exclusive; an included bike ride of Amsterdam, giving us the chance to cycle around the canals and parks of this gorgeous city, just as the locals do. We have plenty of free time to take in the abundant culture of Amsterdam, perhaps paying a visit to the Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum.... This evening, we have a farewell dinner in a local restaurant, followed by an optional canal cruise around the waterways of this city, the perfect way to round off a memorable trip! (B, D)

DAY 14 AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Today we say farewell the Netherlands, heading to Belgium and the incredibly well preserved medieval city of Brugges. A short walking tour is followed by free time to explore and sample some delicious Belgian specialities; chocolate, waffles, and for the more sturdy souls- beer! We then head to Calais and catch our ferry back to England, where the trip finishes this

evening in London, and we say our fond farewells to our Topdeck companions! (B)

IMPORTANT NOTES

- To be fully prepared, download the following documentation from www.topdecktravel.co.uk and go to the relevant Itinerary Page of your trip:
 - * Pre-departure information
 - * Optional Activities
- Luggage Allowance - 1 Backpack plus a day pack. Maximum weight of backpack must not exceed 20kgs. Size must not exceed 70cmx45cmx25cm. Due to the strict weight regulations for coaches in Europe, passengers whose luggage exceeds 20kgs will be asked to offload the excess on departure morning. Storage facilities are available at the departure point in London.
- This is a suggested itinerary and should be used as a guide only. The day to day itinerary may vary depending on the availability of sights and products. Admission fees are not included in the trip cost.
- Please check your visa requirements.
- Check in time on departure day is between 6 – 6.30am
- This itinerary is only valid if you are travelling before 9 April 2011.