

8 DAYS EUROPEAN BREAKAWAY - START AMSTERDAM (2012/13)



Tour Summary

Locations Visited

France - Switzerland - Germany

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- * A Welcome Reception with light buffet meal (WR)
- * Choose from a selection of local restaurants in Lucerne (DA)
- * Enjoy an end-of-tour Celebration Dinner with wine in a Parisian restaurant (CD)
- * 7 Buffet Breakfasts (BB) and 1 three-course table d'hôte Dinner, or Buffet, plus tea or coffee (D)

INCLUDED FIRST CLASS SERVICES

- * Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- * Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- * Enjoy the unique comfort of Insight's Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- * Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
- * Insight Traveller Welcome pack
- * London Airport transfer service available.

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- * Amsterdam: Cruise the waterways in a glass-topped boat. See Dam Square, the Royal Palace and Mint Tower. Travel into the Dutch countryside to visit the pretty fishing village of Volendam. Witness demonstrations of cheese-making, clog-making and diamond cutting
- * Boppard: Embark on a Rhine cruise past vineyards and castles.
- * Heidelberg: See the red sandstone castle.
- * Black Forest: Learn about the origins and artisan manufacture of the Black Forest cuckoo clock.
- * Rhine Falls: See the Rhine River thundering over the falls.

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- * Lucerne: See Chapel Bridge, Lion Monument & Jesuit Church. Enjoy an exhilarating ride by cog-wheel train and cable-car to the summit of Mount Pilatus.
- * Paris: See the Mona Lisa on your tour of one of the world's best known art collections at the Louvre Museum. See Notre Dame Cathedral, the Place de la Concorde & Opera House. Drive along the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Ascend the Eiffel Tower for views over the city.
- * Scenic Drives: Black Forest and Burgundy.

My Itinerary

Day1: AMSTERDAM

Welcome to Amsterdam. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Reception with drink and a light meal, followed by time to relax and explore. Schiphol Airport arrival transfers on Day 1 operate at 09:00, 11:00 and 14:30. (Welcome Reception)

Day2: AMSTERDAM SIGHTSEEING – VOLENDAM EXCURSION

An orientation tour reveals the Mint Tower, Dam Square and Royal Palace. Then board a special sightseeing boat to cruise under low bridges, past the canal-side mansions built by wealthy merchants. This afternoon choose an included drive through the pleasant Dutch countryside to the traditional fishing village of Volendam, situated on what was once the Zuider Zee. This is followed by a photo-stop at one of the windmills and a visit to a cheese farm and 'Klompenhuis', where wooden clogs are made. Alternatively enjoy an afternoon at leisure to visit the Rijksmuseum or the Anne Frank House. Back in Amsterdam round off the day with a visit to a diamond cutting factory, whose industry dates back to the 16th century. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day3: AMSTERDAM – RHINE CRUISE – RHINELAND

Leave Amsterdam bound for Germany. Pass Arnhem, renowned for its 'Bridge Too Far', then cross the Ruhr Basin to head for the Romantic Rhine Gorge. Time to explore the quaint wine village of Boppard before taking to the water for a delightful cruise past fortified towns and leafy vineyards. Pass the twin strongholds of the 'Enemy Brothers', the Cat and Mouse castles and hear the legend of the Loreley Rock. Rejoin the coach at St. Goar and continue to the town of Mannheim. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day4: RHINELAND – HEIDELBERG - BLACK FOREST – LUCERNE

Enjoy some time this morning in the city of the 'Student Prince', to view the ruined cliff top castle. Take the scenic route along the Rhine Valley to the ancient city of Freiburg, before climbing into the heart of the Black Forest, home of the cuckoo clock industry. Enjoy an informative presentation on their origins and see how these clocks are made, then continue past Lake Titisee and cross the Swiss border. See the Rhine River thundering over the Rhine Falls before driving via Zurich to lake-side Lucerne. Check into your hotel, shop for chocolate or a special timepiece, and consider joining an optional Swiss Fondue Party in the evening. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day5: LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING

See Lucerne's proud Lion Monument, carved into a limestone cliff and dedicated to the Swiss Guards who died defending the King during the French Revolution. Take time to stroll across the covered Chapel Bridge and see the baroque Jesuit church. Later, embark on an exhilarating ride by cog-wheel train and cable-car to the summit of Mount Pilatus. Admire the stunning panorama of snow-capped peaks – including the Eiger and Jungfrau – before descending over mountain crags and pine forests back to terra firma. For dinner tonight, choose your own style of cuisine from our selection of restaurants. (Buffet Breakfast / Dine Around)

Day6: LUCERNE – PARIS

Leaving the Alpine region, cross the Rhine at Basel and continue into France. Travel past the fortified town of Belfort and along the forested ridges of the Jura Mountains to Burgundy. Continue through leafy vineyards and past the forests of Fontainebleau to arrive in the glittering French capital of Paris. Tonight enjoy wine and good company with an end-of-tour Celebration Dinner at a Parisian restaurant. (Buffet Breakfast / Celebration Dinner)

Day7: PARIS SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing with a local guide takes you by the Île de la Cité to see Notre Dame Cathedral with its famous tale of Quasimodo. Then visit one of the world's best known art collections. Your guide leads you through the galleries of the Louvre to see the Venus de Milo, Winged Victory, Mona Lisa and many more priceless works amassed over the ages by the Kings of France. Sightseeing continues past Garnier's splendid Opera House. See the obelisk in the centre of the Place de la Concorde and drive along the grand Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Ascend to the viewing platforms of the Eiffel Tower for spectacular views of the city. Then you are at leisure. Tonight, perhaps visit one of the world-famous cabaret shows for an evening of excitement and glamour? (Buffet Breakfast)

Day8: PARIS

Transfers arriving at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 and 11:00. (Buffet Breakfast)

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Available Departures

Departs	Returns	Twin Land Only	Single Land Only
15 Jul 2012	22 Jul 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00
22 Jul 2012	29 Jul 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00
29 Jul 2012	05 Aug 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00
05 Aug 2012	12 Aug 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00
12 Aug 2012	19 Aug 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00
19 Aug 2012	26 Aug 2012	\$2575.00	\$3225.00