

11 DAYS EUROPEAN SPOTLIGHT - START AMSTERDAM (2012/13)



Tour Summary

Locations Visited

France - Italy - Germany - Netherlands

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- * A Welcome Reception with light meal (WR)
- * Choose from a selection of Lucerne's restaurants for your dining pleasure (DA)
- * Enjoy an end-of-tour Celebration Dinner with wine in a Parisian restaurant (CD)
- * 10 Buffet Breakfasts (BB), 2 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, 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. Witness a demonstration of diamond cutting
- * Boppard: Explore the quaint Romantic Rhine Gorge village.
- * Rhine Cruise: Past villages, vineyards and cliff-top castles.
- * Heidelberg: See the red sandstone castle.
- * Füssen: See the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein.
- * Innsbruck: See the Golden Roof and Imperial Palace.
- * Verona: See the ancient Roman Arena and Juliet's Balcony.

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- * Venice: Cruise, with commentary, to St Mark's Square. See the Doges' Palace, Bridge of Sighs and St Mark's Basilica. Enjoy a gondola serenade along the atmospheric canals. Venetian glass-blowing demonstration.
- * 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 visit to the Louvre Museum. See Notre Dame Cathedral, 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: Fern Pass, Europa Bridge, Brenner Pass and St Gotthard.

My Itinerary

Day1: AMSTERDAM

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

Day2: AMSTERDAM SIGHTSEEING

Take an orientation tour past the Mint Tower, floating Flower Market and Royal Palace in Dam Square. Then board a special canal cruiser to glide under low bridges, past the magnificent gabled mansions of the 17th century merchants. After a demonstration of diamonds being cut and polished, the afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps enjoy an excursion to the picturesque village of Volendam. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day3: AMSTERDAM – RHINE GORGE – RHINELAND

Pass Arnhem, renowned for its 'Bridge Too Far', before crossing the German border bound for the Romantic Rhine. Take time to explore the lovely little village of Boppard, nestled on the largest loop of the Rhine, before embarking on your scenic cruise. Drift past steep leafy vineyards, medieval hill top castles and hear the legend of the Loreley Rock. Rejoin your coach and head for Ladenburg on the Bertha Benz Memorial Route. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day4: RHINELAND – INNSBRUCK

Follow the Neckar river to nearby Heidelberg, known for its castle and baroque style Old Town. Skirt the northern Black Forest and head for the rolling Bavarian Alps. Stop beneath the renowned royal castles of Hohenschwangau and King Ludwig's fairy-tale Neuschwanstein. Once over the Austrian border continue to Innsbruck, capital of the Tyrol. Tour the architectural jewels of the city, seeing the Imperial Palace, delightful Golden Roof and the 14th century houses of the old town. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day5: INNSBRUCK – VERONA – VENICE

Leave Innsbruck and travel across the impressive Europa Bridge, and cross the Brenner Pass into Italy. Follow the Adige River through spectacular scenery down to the great plain. Visit fascinating Verona, with its first century Roman Arena, maze of elegant squares and, of course, Juliet's balcony. Now on to glorious Venice, 'Queen of the Adriatic'. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day6: VENICE SIGHTSEEING

Relax on a private launch as it cruises past the island of San Giorgio before alighting at St Mark's Square. Stroll along the water's edge to see the Bridge of Sighs which connects the Doges' Palace with the prisons. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape! See St Mark's Basilica and bell tower before watching one of the few remaining craftsmen hand-blow Venetian glass. A visit to Venice would be incomplete without a gondola serenade. Glide along the atmospheric canals exploring the intimate and hidden parts of this unique city while musicians set the mood with traditional songs. Now enjoy free time for your own pursuits. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day7: VENICE – LUCERNE

Travel through some of the richest farmland in Europe as you cross northern Italy. Glimpse the beautiful Italian Lake District as you continue into the heart of the Swiss Alps, through St. Gotthard then alongside towering mountains and past rushing torrents, down to scenic Lake Lucerne. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day8: LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING

Walk with your Tour Director to visit the emotive Lion Monument. Then spend time shopping in the traffic-free Old Town, or stroll across the Chapel Bridge to the ornate Jesuit Church. Later, embark on a highlight excursion by cog-wheel train and cable-car 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. This evening, get together with your friends and choose from our selection of restaurants for your dining pleasure. (Buffet Breakfast / Dine Around)

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Day9: LUCERNE – PARIS

Drive to Basel before crossing the Rhine to enter France. Travel through the wine-growing Burgundy region to Paris, the vibrant heart of French life. This evening enjoy good food, wine and company at an end-of-tour Celebration Dinner in a typical Parisian bistro.(Buffet Breakfast / Celebration Dinner)

Day10: PARIS SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing with a local guide takes you by Notre Dame Cathedral with its famous tale of Quasimodo. Then visit perhaps the best known art collection in the world. 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. Drive now from the Place de la Concorde, down the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Ascend to the viewing platforms of the Eiffel Tower for panoramic vistas over the city. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy at our own pace.(Buffet Breakfast)

Day11: PARIS

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

Available Departures

Departs	Returns	Twin Land Only	Single Land Only
11 Jul 2012	21 Jul 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00
18 Jul 2012	28 Jul 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00
25 Jul 2012	04 Aug 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00
01 Aug 2012	11 Aug 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00
08 Aug 2012	18 Aug 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00
15 Aug 2012	25 Aug 2012	\$3575.00	\$4560.00