

Commences Paris - December 28th 2011

December 28th 2012



WINTER WONDERLAND TOUR

Swiss and Austrian Alps, and the Romantic Cities of Venice, Prague and Paris

December 28th: PARIS Settle into our 4 star Left Bank Hotel. Meet your fellow tour members for Welcome Drinks and Dinner. [D]

December 29th: PARIS Every day on a Great Trains of Europe tour begins with a full buffet breakfast [B]. Our morning sightseeing includes the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees and Notre Dame, ending up at the Louvre to say hello to Mona Lisa. An afternoon optional excursion is available to the Verasailles Palace of Louis XIV. [B]

Dec 30th: PARIS or Day Trip to Somme Battlefields Museums? Department stores? Fashion boutiques? A very long lunch? Choices, choices. There is an optional excursion offered today to the Somme Battlefields of World War I. Here we visit sites sacred in Australia's (and NZ's) national history. [B]

December 31st: PARIS

A final free day in every true romantic's favourite city. Join the crowds tonight on the Champs Elysees to celebrate the dawning of the New Year. [B]

January 1st: INTERLAKEN – Swiss Alps & Lakes Farewell Paris this morning. We begin our love affair with the Great Trains of Europe on her fastest - the French TGV - at 300kph towards the Alps and Interlaken, with stunning views of the Eiger and Jungfrau. This is our home for 4 nights. Interlaken hosts a huge street party on New Year's Day, culminating in spectacular fireworks. [B,D]

January 2nd: INTERLAKEN – Swiss Alps & Lakes Enjoy a late and leisurely brunch before deciding whether to do nothing or to do very little. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for some mountain railway or cable car rides to the peaks of the surrounding Alps. [B]

January 3rd: INTERLAKEN - Swiss Alps & Lakes Today we take what is truly one of the Great Rail Journeys of the World on the Jungfrau Express. We climb and tunnel through the Eiger to Jungfrauoch, Europe's highest railway station - an unbelievable 11,333 feet above sea level, with views across the roof of the world. On our return journey we stop off for a stroll through the beautiful Alpine Village of Grindelwald. [B]

January 4th: INTERLAKEN - or Glacier Express A quiet day in the spa, or on the slopes? There is an optional excursion offered today, on another of the world's great rail journeys - the tiny red Glacier Express. Enjoy the breathtaking views from the panorama carriage, and enjoy lunch in the restaurant car. [B]

January 5th: To VENICE Another of Europe's great rail journeys today. The Swiss-Italian *Cisalpino* takes us through the Alps, past the Northern Italian lakes, via Milan and on to the City of Canals, Venice, another of Europe's truly romantic cities. Our 4 star hotel overlooks the Grand Canal. Settle in as our luggage arrives and watch the lights come on as the waterbuses chug past. [B,D]

January 6th: VENICE This morning we begin to explore the art and history of Venice. Byzantine St Mark's is considered by many to be the most beautiful church in the world and the historic Doge's Palace and its Bridge of Sighs are "must sees". [B]

January 7th: VENICE There is time for a gondola ride and a visit to an outer island - Burano for exquisite lace, Murano for world famous Venetian glass. Art lovers will want to see the Tintoretto paintings in the Scula di San Rocco, the Titian in the Friary Church, and the collection of Venetian Renaissance art in the Accademia Gallery. [B]

January 8th: To INNSBRUCK Farewell Italy, as we head back towards the Alps. This morning we join our Eurocity train for Innsbruck, as our luggage is taken on ahead. We are not staying in downtown Innsbruck, but in the beautiful Alpine Village of Igls, perched 15 minutes above. Thaw out with a glass of gluhwein in front of the roaring log fire. This is our home for 4 nights. [B,D]

January 9th: INNSBRUCK Choices today. Skiing? Or join your tour leader in an exploration of Innsbruck, the Imperial city of Hapsburgs. We commence by riding a tramcar through snow-decked forests down to Innsbruck below. Explore the mediaeval quarter and take a ride up the Hungerberg rack railway for a panorama of the Alps. [B]

January 10th: INNSBRUCK or Day Trip to Salzburg Today, you may choose to ski, to potter about the village, to sit in front of the log fire, or to take the tram back down into Innsbruck to the shops. There is an optional excursion by Austrian InterCity train to Mozart's birthplace, Salzburg. [B]

January 11th: INNSBRUCK Another quiet day in our Alpine haven - a good book in front of the log fire? Alternatively, your Tour Leader will assist you if you wish to make a visit to nearby Munich or the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein. [B]

January 12th: To PRAGUE Our luggage is collected and taken on ahead as we bid farewell to the Alps and join a EuroCity train for another of Europe's great romantic cities - Prague. Our hotel is in the historic centre. [B,D]

January 13th: PRAGUE Today there is a visit to Prague Castle, overlooking the city. Here is also the cathedral church of St Vitus, incorporating the chapel built to house the relics of Good King Wenceslas, murdered here a thousand years ago. A free afternoon for the shops or to enjoy the music. [B]

January 14th: PRAGUE or Day Trip to DRESDEN A free day to continue your exploration of this fabulous city, or join an optional excursion to Dresden, one of Europe's cultural wonders now emerging from the ashes of World War II bombing and 44 years of communism. [B]

January 15th: PRAGUE Enjoy a last free day in magical Prague. You understand why Mozart loved it so much. Crystal and garnet are popular with shoppers. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. [B,D]

January 16th: HOMEWARD BOUND The tour ends after breakfast this morning. [B]

HIGHLIGHTS:

Enjoy the Swiss and Austrian Alps and Europe's most romantic cities. 4 nights in:

- Interlaken, Swiss Alps
- Innsbruck, Austrian Alps
- Prague
- Paris
- Venice (3 nights)

Optional day trips:

- Glacier Express
- Dresden
- Mozart's Salzburg
- Somme Battlefields

New Year's Eve in Paris

New Year's Day Fireworks in Interlaken

The Top of Europe on the Jungfrau Express

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- ✓ First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- ✓ 4 star city centre hotels
- ✓ 5 dinners
- ✓ Full luggage handling
- ✓ Local expert guides
- ✓ Full time Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal

Commences Zurich - 21st December 2011
21st December 2012

WHITE CHRISTMAS

PRE-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE WINTER WONDERLAND TOUR:

Why not enjoy a White Christmas in a beautiful Swiss Alpine village (with opportunities to visit Christmas markets) before embarking on the Winter Wonderland Tour?

On arrival on December 21st there is an airport transfer to the picturesque Swiss Alpine village of Grindelwald, nestled under the North Face of the Eiger.

Our hotel is rated 3 stars and oozes Swiss charm. There are breathtaking Alpine views and a roaring log fire. We have reserved superior standard rooms with private facilities for our tour members. Every morning there is a buffet breakfast, and every evening a four course dinner is provided for our tour members. This includes the festivities of a special Christmas Dinner, as Swiss tradition dictates, on the night of Christmas Eve.

There is a beautiful church 50 metres away with a midnight service on Christmas Eve, should you wish to attend.

Grindelwald is a snow sports fan's heaven. But if you are not a snow bunny, there are a million other things to do. Grindelwald is a hub for the Swiss mountain train networks, and there are many gondolas and cable cars to the Alpine peaks all around. It is an easy train ride to the cities of

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

December 30th: Somme Battlefields - \$275 Today we visit battlefields and cemeteries associated with the horror of the Battle of the Somme - Beaumont Hamel, Thiepval and the Australian Memorials at Pozieres and Villers-Brettoneux.

January 4th: Glacier Express - \$275 An Intercity train brings us via Zurich to Chur. Here we board the Glacier Express for the journey of a lifetime across the roof of the world on perhaps the most famous of the little red Swiss mountain trains, through mountain passes and tunnels, and past sweeping panoramas. This really is a Winter Wonderland.

January 10th: Salzburg - \$275 We ride the rack railway to the top of the twelfth century Hohensalzburg fortress for a panoramic view over the city. Then we visit Salzburg cathedral where Mozart's father was organist and where the young genius first played. The Altstadt (old city) is very compact and an all-pedestrian shopping zone.

January 14th: Dresden - \$125 A scenic rail journey through the Vlatava gorges and across the German border to Dresden, said to be Germany's most beautiful city until fire-bombed in 1945. The baroque city is now re-emerging from the ashes. The home of Meissen porcelain, Dresden boasts a Porcelain Museum as well as a magnificent collection of Old Masters in the Zwinger Gallery. See Raphael's Cherubs.



FACT BOX:

20 days

Departures:

December 28th, 2011
December 28th, 2012

Cost:

Land content only
(join in Paris, leave in Prague)

\$AU 9,950 per person
twin share Enquire about
competitive airfares. Single
room supplement \$2,000

Berne, Basel and Zurich with their Christmas markets. The village itself offers excellent shopping and a wide variety of restaurants and coffee shops for lingering lazy lunches, before returning to the hotel to read or snooze in front of the log fire.

On December 28th (is it all over so soon?) you are escorted on the rail journey to Venice to commence the Winter Wonderland Tour.

COST: \$2,250 per person twin share (\$600 single supplement) includes 7 nights accommodation in a superior standard room with private facilities in a 3 star hotel in the Swiss village of Grindelwald.

- ✓ **7 buffet breakfasts, 7 four course dinners including a Special Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve.**
- ✓ **Transfer from Zurich or Geneva Airport to Grindelwald on Dec 21st; escorted rail transfer from Grindelwald to Venice on Dec 28th to join Winter Wonderland Tour.**

Great Trains of Europe Tours **BOOKING FORM**

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk at a moderate pace without assistance? YES NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance. I have a pre-existing medical condition.

{NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance}

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin, sharing with _____

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} Non-smoking Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. **or** I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ _____ **or**

I have deposited \$ _____ in the " Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Building Society, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.

BSB 638 — 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



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