

Commences Rome - September 26th 2011  
October 1st 2012

# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

**From Rome to Paris via the hill villages and market towns of Tuscany, the Swiss Lakes & the South of France**

**Day 1: ROME** The tour commences today in our 4 star boutique hotel beside the Roman Forum. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner. **[D]**

**Day 2: ROME** Every day on the Great Trains of Europe Tours begins with a full buffet breakfast **[B]**. Today's sightseeing focuses on Classical Rome and includes entrances to the Pantheon, and the Colosseum. "Roma - non basta una vita!" (Rome - one life is not enough). **[B]**

**Day 3: ROME** Catholic Rome today, including entrances and a guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. The fashion shops on the Via Condotti are open this afternoon. Dinner in the Piazza Navona as we watch the water play in Bernini's fountains? **[B]**

**Day 4: To SAN GIMIGNANO, Tuscany** Our luggage is transported on ahead as we commence our love affair with the Great Trains of Europe, taking our reserved First Class seats on Italy's flagship train, the High Speed Eurostar Italia. Then a slower pace through archetypal Tuscan countryside - vineyards, olive-groves and cypresses - down the Vale of Chianti and up the hill to San Gimignano, the walled hilltop village with its 13 towers, almost unchanged since the 13th century, our home for 4 nights. **[B,D]**

Most days a short excursion from San Gimignano is provided (and included in your tour cost). You may choose to join the excursion or simply stay in San Gimignano and relax.

**Day 5: SAN GIMIGNANO, Tuscany** A drive off the beaten path today through Southern Tuscan vineyards and olive groves to visit two beautiful hilltop villages and wine centres - Montalcino and Montepulciano. **[B]**

**Day 6: SAN GIMIGNANO, Tuscany** We take the local train through the Vale of Chianti today for a visit to Florence, the cradle of our civilisation and birthplace of the Renaissance. After a brief orientation tour, the city is yours - museums, churches, leather shops to die for, and markets. Home to San Gimignano this afternoon. **[B]**

**Day 7: SAN GIMIGNANO, Tuscany** This morning we explore the artistic gem of Siena, which stands today much as it did in the twelfth century. You know it from "My House in Umbria" and "Under the Tuscan Sun". Lunch at one of the open air trattoria on the Campo? This is the historic city square, the setting for the Palio horse race in the summer. Home to San Gimignano this afternoon for our final night. **[B]**

**Day 8: To SPIEZ, Swiss Lakes** Our luggage is transported on ahead today as we make our way north via Milan towards Switzerland. A picturesque rail journey as we wind our way through the Italian Lake District and cross the Swiss Alps through the Simplon Tunnel. We arrive at the pretty lakeside village of Spiez as the sun sets. Here is our home for 3 nights. **[B,D]**

**Day 9: SPIEZ, Swiss Lakes** A quiet day in the picturesque village of Spiez. Pay a visit to its mediaeval castle or take a steamer ride down the lake to Interlaken. **[B]**

**Day 10: SPIEZ, Swiss Lakes** Truly one of the Great Rail Journeys of the World today on the Jungfrau Railway as 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. **[B]**

**Day 11: To VILLENEUVE, Provence** By local train to Geneva to join the high speed French TGV train, for Avignon in Provence at 300kph, then to the village of Villeneuve. Excursions from Villeneuve are offered most days and included in the tour cost. **[B,D]**

**Day 12: VILLENEUVE, Provence** Off the beaten path again today as we drive through some of Provence's favourite villages, - Lourmarin (market day) hilltop Bonnieux, rainbow-coloured Roussillon, Gordes - with stops for coffee, lunch and shopping. **[B]**

**Day 13: VILLENEUVE, Provence** A visit today to the historic city of Avignon, home of the Roman Catholic Popes from 1309 to 1377. The historic walled town has some good shopping and excellent restaurants. **[B]**

**Day 14: VILLENEUVE, Provence** The nearby village of L'Isle-Sur-la-Sourde prides itself on being France's second largest antiques centre. Visa cards with chronic fatigue syndrome have been known here. L'Isle-Sur-la-Sourde is a very attractive town with streams and water wheels, nicknamed the "Venice of Provence". We move on to Fontaine de Vaucluse for lunch beside the waterfall. **[B]**

**Day 15: To SABLAT, Dordogne** A visit to the Roman Pont du Gard, then we join our train, via Toulouse, to the walled mediaeval market town of Sarlat, one of the gems of the Dordogne region. As our luggage arrives we settle in for 3 nights. As before, excursions from Sarlat are offered most days and included in the tour cost, but you are free to choose those that appeal to you or simply potter about our "home" village. **[B,D]**

**Day 16: SABLAT, Dordogne** Winding along the banks of the Dordogne River today we make our way to the mediaeval cliff-face village of Rocamadour - very much ON the beaten path. Pilgrims have come to visit the Black Madonna since the 12th century. Later we visit the walled 'bastide' town of Domme, with excellent shopping and a fine view of a vast sweep of the Dordogne River Valley. **[B]**

**Day 17: SABLAT, Dordogne** The morning is free in the village of Sarlat. This is a "foodie's" paradise. In the afternoon we visit one of France's most beautiful gardens, the nearby Jardin d'Eyrignac. **[B]**

**Day 18: To PARIS** We farewell Sarlat and enjoy a change of pace - a leisurely rail journey on a small local train, trundling down the Dordogne Valley and through Bordeaux vineyards, before a transfer to a High Speed TGV to Paris. Settle in to our Left Bank Hotel. **[B]**

## FACT BOX:

20 days

**Departures:**  
September 26th, 2011  
October 1st, 2012

**Cost:**  
Land content only  
(join in Rome, leave in Paris)  
\$AU 11,950 per person twin  
share. Enquire about  
competitive airfares. Single  
room supplement \$2,000.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Explore two of Europe's Cultural Capitals with 3 nights in each

- Rome
- Paris

Discover "Off the Beaten Track" villages in

- Tuscany, Italy
- Swiss Lakes
- Provence, France
- Dordogne, France

Enjoy

- Sistine Chapel
- Village Market Days
- Jungfrau Express
- Monet's Garden

## INCLUDED FEATURES:

- ✓ First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- ✓ 4 star city centre boutique hotels
- ✓ 3 & 4 star historic village inns
- ✓ 6 dinners
- ✓ Full luggage handling
- ✓ Full time Historian / Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal



**Day 19: PARIS** This morning's sightseeing includes the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees and Notre Dame Cathedral. There is time to visit Mona Lisa in the Louvre. We are spoilt for choice of restaurant this evening. [B]

**Day 20: PARIS** The museums and the boutiques beckon today. There is an afternoon excursion to Monet's Garden at Giverny. Here we see the waterlilies and the Japanese bridge. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. [B,D]

**Day 21: HOMEWARD BOUND** Our tour ends after breakfast. [B]

*This is a great tour, excellent value for money. Friendly, helpful tour leader... Stan is the man! Thanks for a wonderful time. Keep us informed of future tours"*

John & Heather Carlisle, Brisbane, Qld.



*Thanks a lot Stan, your humour and personality truly made it a great holiday. No fuss, and we didn't have to worry about a thing.*

Wendy Ryan, Oakey, Qld.

# 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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