

Departs September 26th 2010
September 25th 2011

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

PROVINCIAL DIVERSIONS:

From Rome to Paris in the Autumn, via the hill villages and market towns of Tuscany, the Swiss Lakes, and the South of France.

Day 1: JETTING OFF Join your flight to Europe today.

Day 2: ROME On arrival in Rome, we transfer to our centrally located hotel, our home for 3 nights. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner [D].

Day 3: 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, the Forum and the Colosseum. "Roma - non basta una vita!" (Rome - one life is not enough) [B]

Day 4: 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]

VENICE OPTION If you would prefer Venice to Rome as your starting point, you have the option of taking the first 3 days of the tour in a 4 star canal-front hotel in magical Venice. These days will not be escorted.

Day 5: 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.

After Florence our rail journey takes us at a slower pace through archetypal Tuscan countryside – vineyards, olive-groves and cypresses – down the Vale of Chianti and up the hill to San Gimignano. This walled hilltop village with its 13 towers, standing almost unchanged since the 12th century, is 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 6: 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 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. [B]

Day 8: 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 for our final night. [B]

Day 9: 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 Lakes 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 10: 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 11: 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 12: To VILLENEUVE, Provence By local train to Geneva to join the high speed French TGV train, for Avignon in Provence and the village of Villeneuve. As in Tuscany, excursions from Villeneuve are offered most days and included in the tour cost, but you are free to choose only those that appeal. [B,D]

Day 13: 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 14: 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 15: VILLENEUVE, Provence The nearby village of L'Isle-Sur-la-Sourge prides itself on being France's second largest antiques centre. Visa cards with chronic fatigue syndrome have been known here. L'Isle-Sur-la-Sourge is a very attractive town with streams and water wheels. It deserves its nickname, "the Venice of Provence". [B]

Day 16: To SARLAT, Dordogne As our luggage goes on ahead, we take another rail journey to Toulouse, then the walled mediaeval market town of Sarlat, one of the gems of the Dordogne region. 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 17: SARLAT, Dordogne Today we make our way to the mediaeval cliff-face village of Rocamadour – very much ON the beaten path, a pilgrimage destination 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]

FACT BOX:

22 days

Departures:
September 26th, 2010
September 25th, 2011

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



Day 18: SARLAT, Dordogne The morning is free in the village of Sarlat. This is a “foodie’s” paradise with a vast array of gourmet shops. In the afternoon we visit one of France’s most beautiful gardens, the nearby Jardin d’Eyrignac. [B]

Day 19: 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. [B]

Day 20: 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 21: 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 22: HOMEWARD BOUND Our tour ends after breakfast or you may choose to join the optional London Add-On – see below. [B]

London Optional Add-on

Take another of the great rail journeys of the world - the high speed luxury Eurostar, under the English Channel to London. The first night in a boutique 4 star hotel and full English breakfast are included.

Cost \$A 600 per person twin share, single supplement \$100

HIGHLIGHTS

Explore two of Europe’s cultural capitals with 3 nights in each

- Rome or Venice
- Paris

Discover “Off the Beaten Path” 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 three course dinners with drinks
- ✓ 21 buffet breakfasts
- ✓ Full luggage handling
- ✓ Full time Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal



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 _____



www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

Phone 0488 423 848 Fax 07 4613 4728

Email greattrains@bigpond.com

Postal PO Box 4553 TOOWOOMBA EAST 4350, AUSTRALIA