

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

From Rome to Paris via the hill villages and market towns of Tuscany, the Cinque Terre & the South of France

September 30th: ROME The tour commences today in our 4 star boutique hotel. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner. **[D]**

October 1st: ROME Every day on the Great Trains of Europe Tours, we begin with a full buffet breakfast. Today's sightseeing focuses on Classical Rome and includes entrances to the Pantheon & the Colosseum. "Roma – non basta una vita!" (Rome - one life is not enough). **[B]**

October 2nd: 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]**

October 3rd: 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]**

Each day 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.

October 4th: SAN GIMIGNANO Tuscany A drive off the beaten track today through Southern Tuscan vineyards and olive groves to visit two beautiful hilltop villages and wine centres – Montalcino and Montepulciano. **[B]**

October 5th: SAN GIMIGNANO Tuscany Today is Market day in our 'home' village, San Gimignano. Enjoy. **[B]**

October 6th: 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? On the way home to San Gimignano we visit the walled village of Monteriggioni. **[B]**

October 7th: To CINQUE TERRE A local train along the North West Coast of Italy brings us to the Cinque Terre. We arrive in our seafront hotel in Santa Margherita Ligure. **[B,D]**

October 8th: CINQUE TERRE Today we ramble in the beautiful Cinque Terre, with an opportunity for the sprightly to walk the 5 villages, while others may choose a dip in the Mediterranean or a ridiculously long lunch in a seafront restaurant. **[B]**

October 9th: CINQUE TERRE Nearby Genoa was Christopher Columbus' birthplace and you have the opportunity to visit it today or, alternatively, a leisurely day in your seafront hotel, or a visit to uber-touristy Portofino. **[B]**

October 10th: To VILLENEUVE Provence Along the Mediterranean today and across the French border to join the high speed French TGV train to Provence and the historic village of Villeneuve-les-Avignon. Excursions from Villeneuve are offered each day and included in the tour cost. **[B,D]**

October 11th: VILLENEUVE Provence A visit this morning to the Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct dating from Classical times. Then we move on to van Gogh country and the village of St. Remy, ending the day in the walled city of Avignon, seat of the Popes from 1309 to 1377. **[B]**

October 12th: 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. We stop in hilltop Gordes for sweeping views of the Luberon. **[B]**

October 13th: VILLENEUVE Provence Off the beaten track again today as we drive through some of Provence's favourite villages – Lourmarin (market day), hilltop Bonnieux, rainbow-coloured Roussillon, Goult – with stops for coffee, lunch & shopping. **[B]**

October 14th: To SARLAT Dordogne An early start from Provence, across Southern France to the Dordogne and the walled mediaeval market town of Sarlat. This is market day and we arrive in time to enjoy the afternoon in the markets. As our luggage arrives we settle in for 3 nights. As before, excursions from Sarlat are offered each day 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]**

October 15th: SARLAT 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 track. 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]**



October 16th: SARLAT, Dordogne This morning is free in our 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’Eygrignac. **[B]**

October 17th: To PARIS We farewell Sarlat and enjoy a change of pace – a leisurely journey, 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 where our luggage awaits. **[B]**

October 18th: 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]**

October 19th: 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 is tonight. **[B,D]**

October 20th: HOMEWARD BOUND Our tour ends after breakfast. **[B]**



FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURE: September 30th, 2024

COST: Land Only Content
(Join in Rome, leave in Paris)

\$AU 13,950 per person Twin Share
Enquire about competitive airfares
Single Room supplement \$2,000

**NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT
FOR EARLYBIRD BOOKINGS**

HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE EUROPE’S CULTURAL CAPITALS 3 NIGHTS IN EACH

- Rome
- Paris

ENJOY

- Sistine Chapel
- Village Market Days
- Monet’s Garden

DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN

- Tuscany, Italy
- Cinque Terre
- Provence, France
- Dordogne, France

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 Australian Tour Director



BOOKING CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 01 0 987) are members of IATA #96836610

COSTS: Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at March 1st 2023.

Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early). Please note special payment conditions for the Legendary Silk Road Tour.

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows:

Heritage Bank, Toowoomba

BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34 Payment by credit card attracts a 1.5% surcharge.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: A baggage allowance of 23kgs per person applies to all tour members.

HOTELS: Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

OTHER IMPORTANT ADVICE: The tour will proceed if a minimum of 15 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be

offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour.

Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her/ his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim nor imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers may not be covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections.

Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only. Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Leader's discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to unruly or disruptive behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

CONTRACT: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

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 500 metres and climb 25 stairs 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 Bank, 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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