



Education First

Educational Tours

Girl Travel Tours

travel

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European Palooza

19 days | Summer 2021





Educational Tours

European Palooza

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; weShare, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily.

Sightseeing:

The Vatican; Ancient Rome; Venice; Munich; Tower of London; Amsterdam

Entrances:

Sistine Chapel; Colosseum; Roman Forum; Accademia, Florence; Glass blowing factory; Doge's Palace; Gondola ride, Venice; Dachau; Our Chalet; Louvre; Disneyland Paris; Seine cruise; Sacre-Coeur; Theater performance; Tower of London; Pax Lodge; Anne Frank House; Canal cruise, Amsterdam

Overnight stays:

Rome (2)
Florence (1)
Venice (2)
Munich (2)
Adelboden (2)
Paris (3)
London (3)
Amsterdam (2)



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Your itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Italy

Board your overnight flight to Rome!

Day 2: Rome

Arrive in Rome

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archaeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art and religious treasure. As Italy's capital, it is also the bustling heart of this exciting country. With its fashionable shopping and café-culture, Rome really is a unique European experience.

Exploration time in Rome (*time permitting*)

Take an opportunity to sit on the grassy banks of the Circus Maximus and imagine what it was like to watch chariot races there. Rome also has some of the most fashionable shops to be found anywhere; a trip along the Via del Corso confirms this. If not, just find a café, order a soda and watch the noise and bustle of this fascinating city go by.

Day 3: Rome

Guided sightseeing of the Vatican

The world's largest dome is located in the world's smallest country. See both as you tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected in Vatican City on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's *Pietà* and try to find the artist's signature (it is the only sculpture he ever signed). Then continue on to the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries packed with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the Chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backwards from a scaffold.

Guided sightseeing of ancient Rome

Your guided sightseeing of ancient Rome takes you into the ancient Roman Forum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. You will also visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled for their lives in front of 50,000 spectators.

Day 4: Rome | Florence

Travel via Pisa to Florence

Journey to Pisa and visit the Field of Miracles for a photo-stop. Here you will see the six stories of white marble that form the 12th century Leaning Tower of Pisa, along with the adjacent marble cathedral, and the neighboring baptistery.

Arrive in Florence

Set deep in the heart of Tuscany is one of Italy's jewels. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture.

Visit the Accademia

This simple building, located on Via Ricasoli, houses one of the world's true masterpieces in Michelangelo's statue of *David*. Elsewhere, you can see unfinished works by the great artist along with other Renaissance treasures.

Day 5: Florence | Venice

Exploration morning in Florence

Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty. Take your time to explore the city this morning, before continuing north to Venice.

Travel to Venice

Arrive in magical Venice, home of Marco Polo. Known globally for its gondoliers and glassware, Venice is also a heady mix of busy piazzas thronging with pizzerias and cafes, as well as deserted streets alongside canals that often lead to hidden gems such as churches or local restaurants serving regional delicacies.

Day 6: Venice

Guided sightseeing of Venice

Begin your sightseeing of la Serenissima (the city's nickname meaning "the most serene") at St. Mark's Square, "the finest drawing room in Europe," according to Napoleon. Allegedly buried under the altar of the basilica are St. Mark's remains, which, in the 11th century, were smuggled out of Alexandria in a barrel of salt pork to prevent a thorough search by the city's Muslim guards. Also, see the Grand Canal and the 324-foot Campanile (Bell Tower), whose steps were originally built so that a noble could ascend on horseback. Look for the clock where two bronze figures have been striking the hour for over 500 years. Venice is also famous for its glassware-you'll see why during a glassblowing demonstration.

Visit the Doges' Palace

Visit the grand 14th century pink and white Doges' Palace, from which mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Here you'll stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, connecting the palace and its prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time. Casanova made a daring escape from this prison in 1756. (*Please note that your ticket also includes free entrance to Museo Correr, the National Archaeological Museum and the Monumental Rooms of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana*)

Take a gondola ride

Later this afternoon, you will enjoy a truly idyllic experience and ride in one of the city's many gondolas along some of its finest canals. There is no better and more scenic way to explore this city of canals than by gondola.

Day 7: Venice | Munich

Travel via Innsbruck to Munich

Located at the intersection of several Alpine passes, Innsbruck is the capital of the beautiful Austrian province of Tyrol and the site of two Winter Olympics (1964 and 1976).

Arrive in Munich

Welcome to Munich! This center of culture boasts over 45 museums, 10 university buildings and two opera houses. The city is also home to the Olympic center with full facilities and more than the occasional beer-hall.

Day 8: Munich

Excursion to Dachau

Once merely another sleepy German village, Dachau has since 1933 gained notoriety as Germany's first Nazi concentration camp. Today, the old administration building houses a museum documenting the rise of Hitler and the horrors of camp life. Commemorative chapels and memorials have also been built on the site, which stands as an eternal memorial to those who endured life here until liberation by Allied forces.

Guided sightseeing of Munich

Your guided tour takes you past the Olympic Stadium, the headquarters of BMW, and the fashionable Schwabing district. You'll also pass the Residenz (once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria), the Deutsches Museum, the university, and the Alte Pinakothek. Your tour concludes at Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, where you'll see the city's famed Glockenspiel. "Munich" derives from the city's German name, München (little monk), so named because the original settlement bordered a monastery.

Optional: Munich by bike

Enjoy sightseeing highlights on two wheels during this optional excursion with Mike's Bike Tours. Bike routes are isolated from car traffic, and helmets are provided, making this two-hour bike tour a fun, safe and unique way to discover all that the city has to offer. *(please note this activity is not included in your tour price, interested travelers must opt in to sign up)*

Day 9: Munich | Adelboden

Travel via Liechtenstein to Adelboden

Journey to Liechtenstein, an alpine principality which dates back to the Holy Roman Empire. Today the country is one of the world's largest producers of false teeth! Have a taste of the local flavor during your midday stop here, with free time for lunch, before passing the royal family's hilltop castle as you continue through the mountains.

Transfer to Adelboden

Journey to nearby Adelboden, site of "Our Chalet." This is the first of the four Girl Guide World Centers. With plans first drawn up for the chalet in 1929, it has served the Girl Guide movement faithfully for many decades.

Day 10: Adelboden

Visit to Our Chalet

High up in the Swiss Alps, spend today at Our Chalet, the oldest of WAGGGS' World Centers. Founded in 1932, Our Chalet's activities focus on hiking and mountain climbing in the summer and skiing in the winter. Find out about the center's long history. Tour the legendary main chalet and stroll around its expansive grounds. Take part in a special ceremony created for Our Chalet visitors and learn the words to the Our Chalet song!

Day 11: Adelboden | Paris

Take a train to Paris

This morning you will travel to the Berne or Basel train station where you will board a train to Paris.

Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. Over the centuries, Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically. Equally famed for its high fashion, awe-inspiring museums and elegant cuisine, Paris has also been a center of theater, literature and philosophy throughout the ages.

Walking tour of Paris

Join our walking tour of the chic Opéra district and the haute couture boutiques of Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré. Stroll through Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. The next Louis was not so lucky--he was beheaded here during the Revolution, along with Marie Antoinette. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to Place Vendôme, a vast square wrapped in 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. *(The exact walking route may vary depending on your arrival time, hotel location and other activities.)*

Seine River cruise

This evening, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

Day 12: Paris

Visit the Louvre Museum

The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such as the statues of Venus de Milo and Nike of Samothrace, better known as Winged Victory. You'll also see some of the Louvre's most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the mysterious Mona Lisa.

Walking tour of the Latin Quarter

Your Tour Director will lead you on a walking tour of Paris' famous Latin Quarter. Featuring a diversity of restaurants, the Latin Quarter is just a short walk down the Rue de la Seine from the museum area.

Visit Sacre-Coeur and Montmartre

Visit the spectacular Sacré-Coeur, a Catholic basilica built atop the Montmartre hill. From here enjoy some of the most breathtaking views of the City of Light before heading to the cafés and shops that line the small and quaint streets. Relax at the Place du Tertre and watch talented artists at work or choose to have your own portrait done. Montmartre was once home to many struggling artists, including Picasso, Monet, and Renoir.

Day 13: Paris

Excursion to Disneyland Paris

Say "Bonjour" to Mickey while you visit Disneyland Paris. Visit Adventureland and ride the Pirates of the Caribbean, or go to Fantasyland to see your favorite movie characters come to life and then race down Space Mountain to Discoveryland! Located beyond the suburbs of Paris you will find all the pleasures of Disney's Californian and Floridian predecessors.

Day 14: Paris | London

Travel to London on the Eurostar train

In Paris, board the high-speed Eurostar that runs through the tunnel connecting continental Europe with Britain. Completed in May of 1994, the Channel Tunnel provides travelers with easy access to and from the continent. Eurostar trains reach top speeds of up to 186 mph, keeping journey times at roughly two hours.

Walking tour of London

Stroll through the heart of London on your Tour Director-led walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. As you walk along the ancient embankment, note that these shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for “city of the lake.” Walk along the Strand and see the spot from which all distances to London are measured. Enter Trafalgar Square, where you’re sure to meet the world’s most famous pigeons, and pause at Nelson’s column, a symbol of Britain’s once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square and end your walk at chic Covent Garden, where street performers (or “buskers”) amuse the lively crowds. *(The exact walking route may vary, depending on arrival time, your hotel location and the day’s other activities.)*

Attend an evening theatre performance

Participate in London’s vibrant drama scene as you attend an evening theatre performance in the West End. London has over 80 mainstream theaters-the largest array in the world-featuring everything from traditional classics to cutting-edge works by new writers.

Day 15: London

Guided sightseeing of the Tower of London

The history of London comes to life at this complex of towers surrounding Tower Green. The oldest tower, known as the White Tower, was completed in 1097, when it was the tallest building in London. The Tower buildings have had many uses over the years; perhaps the most infamous was as a jail for political prisoners, not to mention two of Henry VIII’s wives. The most famous exhibits at the Tower are the British Crown Jewels. Aside from a short interruption during WWII, these splendid baubles have been locked behind the Tower’s walls for centuries.

Service project

This afternoon time is set aside for you to participate in a service project. Details will be confirmed later, as your Group Leader will arrange this activity. *(Please note that any costs associated with these activities have not been included in your total Program Price. See your Group Leader for further details.)*

Day 16: London

Excursion to Pax Lodge

Today, visit Pax Lodge, the newest of the four World Centers of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), set in the leafy North London area of Hampstead. Here, you will take a tour of the center and learn about the history of Pax Lodge and WAGGGS. You will receive the Pax Lodge pin during a pinning ceremony, learn the Pax Lodge song and learn more about international Guiding and Scouting. You will also be able to experience a traditional British cream tea.

Optional Excursion to the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio

Travel to Leavesden to visit the studio where the iconic Harry Potter films were shot. You will take a self-guided tour and see up-close the actual sets used in filming, costumes, and props. You may even hear about a secret or two about the special effects and animatronics that were used in the films’ makings. Take a seat in the Great Hall where the characters ate their meals, find hidden treasures in Dumbledore’s office, and stroll down Diagon Alley. *(Pending availability due to extreme popularity and very limited group reservations)*

Day 17: London | Amsterdam

Travel via train to the Netherlands

Board a train and travel through irrigated Dutch landscapes as you make your way to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands. Known both as a center of entertainment and as a city of classic design and architecture, Amsterdam is a city of astonishing contrast.

Visit the Van Gogh Museum

This museum, whose collection of over 200 Van Gogh paintings and 600 drawings provides a comprehensive view of the artist’s works, is one of the highlights of the city. Learn more about the artist’s life, his time in England and then in a mining community in Belgium as you tour this impressive site.

Day 18: Amsterdam

Guided sightseeing of Amsterdam

A local guide introduces you to Amsterdam, a city where 1,200 bridges crisscross 160 canals to make it one of Europe’s most charming capitals. During your stay you’ll see the Westerkerk (West Church), where Rembrandt is buried. You’ll also visit Dam Square, which is home to Koninklijk Paleis (the Royal Palace), before seeing the Flower Market and Jewish Quarter.

Visit the Anne Frank House

Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944-and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

Canal cruise

Cruise the famous canals on board a glass-topped boat, the perfect way to become acquainted with the city. You will pass some of Amsterdam’s most enchanting bridges, including those depicted in some of van Gogh’s paintings.

Day 19: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc

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- **Your full-time Tour Director** is with your group every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

"My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides."

–CHARLOTTE, PARENT

