

Winter explorer

Tour Pace - This tour slows down considerably after Venice, with two night stays in Venice, Rome, Lucerne & Paris. Florence is just a short drive from Rome, requiring only a one night stay here.

Hotels - The hotels featured on this tour range in style from the traditional Sant'Elena, which overlooks the Venetian lagoon, to the modern Hilton hotel in the heart of Innsbruck, and the Movenpick City Centre in Amsterdam.

Fellow Passengers - This tour attracts visitors who want a more comprehensive tour of Europe that includes the three main historical cities of Italy. Passengers on this tour often have a passion for art and culture.

Highlights - Lakeside Lucerne on a crisp, clear, winter's day can't be beaten - except for the stunning views from nearby Mt Pilatus! The history of Rome, the art treasures of Florence and the atmosphere of Venice are all pure magic.

Amsterdam Canals



DAY 1 – LONDON – AMSTERDAM. Meet your Tour Director at London's *Thistle Marble Arch* and travel to *Dover* for your channel crossing to France. Continue through Belgium, past medieval Bruges and the port of Antwerp, into Holland. See the first *windmills* on your way to *Amsterdam* - 'City of Canals'. Here your *orientation tour* shows you the *Royal Palace and Mint Tower*. Tonight, enjoy a *Welcome Drink* with your fellow guests. **Hotel: Movenpick City Centre.**

DAY 2 – AMSTERDAM – MANNHEIM. Travel into Germany today to visit *Cologne*. Take time to view the impressive *Gothic Cathedral* and wander down the pedestrian mall. Then continue *via Bonn*, to the scenic Rhine Gorge. *Board your highlight Rhine cruise past medieval castles, steep vineyards and the legendary Loreley Rock.* Now on to your hotel in the river port of *Mannheim* at the confluence of the Rhine and the Neckar. **Hotel: Maritim.** (BB,D)

DAY 3 – MANNHEIM – INNSBRUCK. Head into Bavaria today to admire the fairytale castle of *Neuschwanstein*. Continue to *Oberammergau* to see the renowned theatre and painted chalets before crossing the Austrian border to lively *Innsbruck*. **Hotel: Hilton.** (BB,D)

DAY 4 – INNSBRUCK – VENICE. This morning your Tour Director shows you the *Golden Roof* before a visit to the superb rococo *Wilten Basilica* - its interior richly decorated with cherubs and angels. Leaving Innsbruck, cross into Italy and follow the Adige River through spectacular scenery to *Verona*. Walk with your Tour Director through the narrow streets past the *Roman Arena* to *Juliet's Balcony*. Now on to the romantic city of Venice. **Hotel: Sant'Elena/Continental.** (BB,D)

DAY 5 – VENICE SIGHTSEEING. *Cruise by private launch to St Mark's Square.* Walk past the *Bridge of Sighs* and adjoining *Doges' Palace* to view the ornate *Basilica and the Moors atop the clock tower*. After a *demonstration of Venetian glass blowing*, you are at leisure to explore or shop! (BB)

DAY 6 – VENICE – ROME. Follow the 'Highway of the Sun' over the wild Apennine Mountains to your Rome hotel, scenically located in beautiful gardens. *This evening, drive to a local restaurant for a highlight dinner of pasta, wine and music!* **Hotel: Crowne Plaza St Peters.** (BB,HD)

DAY 7 – ROME SIGHTSEEING. Sightseeing with your *local guide* takes you into *St Peter's Basilica* in the Vatican City to see Michelangelo's 'Pieta'. *Then cross the River Tiber to visit one of the wonders of ancient Rome - the Colosseum. Round off your tour with a view over the Roman Forum, once the bustling centre of commerce, law and religion.* There is time at leisure this afternoon. (BB)

DAY 8 – ROME – FLORENCE. Follow the Tiber north to *Florence* this morning. *Join your local guide to visit the statue of 'David' inside the Academy Gallery. Then continue to the Cathedral, Gates of Paradise and the open air art gallery in Signoria Square.* Later enjoy a *leatherwork demonstration* in the Santa Croce area, before time at leisure! **Hotel: Palazzo Ognissanti/Grand Hotel Mediterraneo.** (BB,D)

DAY 9 – FLORENCE – LUCERNE. Journey north today past Italy's industrial nerve centre of *Milan* and the *Italian Lake District*. Cross into Switzerland amidst spectacular *Alpine scenery*, to reach the lakeside resort of *Lucerne*. **Hotel: Astoria.** (BB)

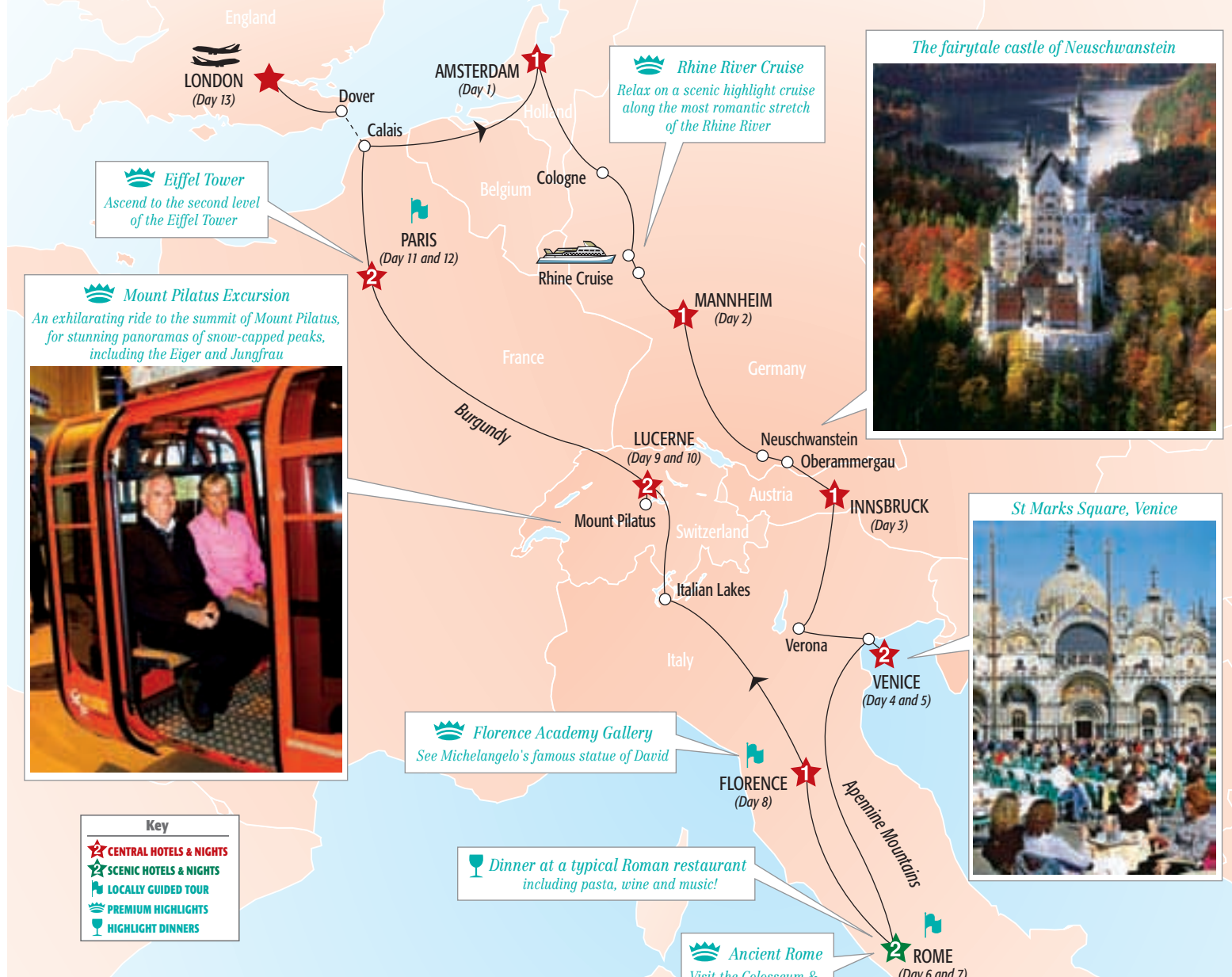
DAY 10 – LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING. A full day in this beautiful city with its *covered wooden bridges*, painted gables, medieval fortifications, *Lion Monument, baroque church*, lake-side walks and excellent shops. *Later take a spectacular cable-car ride up to the summit of Mount Pilatus for snow-capped views and true Alpine majesty.* (BB,D)

DAY 11 – LUCERNE – PARIS. Travel into France and continue through the wine area of *Burgundy* to *Paris*. Tonight, perhaps sample some French cuisine? **Hotel: Marriott Rive Gauche.** (BB)

DAY 12 – PARIS SIGHTSEEING. Your *guided sightseeing tour* shows you *Notre Dame Cathedral* and the immense facades of the *Louvre*. Drive through the *Place de la Concorde* and along the elegant *Champs Élysées* to the *Arc de Triomphe*. *Now ascend the famous Eiffel Tower for spectacular panoramas over the city!* Enjoy free time to shop this afternoon. (BB)

DAY 13 – PARIS – LONDON. This morning cross the battlefields of WW1 en route to Calais. Sail back across the channel to Dover and continue back to London where your tour ends. (BB)

13 Days ~ England ~ Belgium ~ Holland ~ Germany ~ Austria ~ Italy ~ Switzerland ~ France



Mount Pilatus Excursion
An exhilarating ride to the summit of Mount Pilatus, for stunning panoramas of snow-capped peaks, including the Eiger and Jungfrau

Key

- CENTRAL HOTELS & NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS & NIGHTS
- LOCALLY GUIDED TOUR
- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- HIGHLIGHT DINNERS

Enjoy our Premium Highlights plus these extra tour features

Excursions & Sights

- See Amsterdam's canals, Royal Palace and Mint Tower
- See the soaring spires of Cologne Cathedral • See Neuschwanstein
- Visit the village of Oberammergau • Visit Innsbruck's Wilten Basilica
- See Juliet's Balcony & the Roman arena in Verona
- Cruise to St Mark's Square to see the Basilica, Doges' Palace & Bridge of Sighs
- Visit St Peter's Basilica and St Peter's Square in the Vatican City
- See Florence's Signoria Square, immense Cathedral & Gates of Paradise
- See Lucerne's Lion Monument and covered bridges
- See Notre Dame Cathedral & the Arc de Triomphe in Paris

Guided City Tours

- Indepth sightseeing tours, with audio headsets where appropriate, in Rome, Florence & Paris
- Orientation tours in Amsterdam, Cologne, Innsbruck, Venice and Lucerne

Insight's First Class Services

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Luxury 40 seat touring coach with extra legroom & onboard toilet
- First Class hotels with all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Free Airport transfers when booking our London hotel

Quality Dining

- Highlight Dinner of Italian cuisine in Rome (HD)
- 12 enhanced or buffet breakfasts (BB), 5 three course table d'hôte dinners, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

13 days from US\$223 per day

Starts - Ends	Price	Dec 28 - Jan 09	Mar 01 - Mar 13
Nov 02 - Nov 14	\$3025	2009	Mar 08 - Mar 20
Nov 09 - Nov 21	\$2899		Mar 15 - Mar 27
Nov 16 - Nov 28	\$2899	Jan 11 - Jan 23	Mar 22 - Apr 03
* Nov 30 - Dec 12	\$2899	Jan 25 - Feb 06	Mar 29 - Apr 10
* Dec 14 - Dec 26	\$2899	Feb 08 - Feb 20	Apr 05 - Apr 17
* Dec 20 - Jan 01	\$2899	Feb 22 - Mar 06	

Supplements

Single Room	Price
Single Room	\$835

Pre & post tour accommodation in London:

Thistle Marble Arch	Twin	Single	Triple
01 Nov 08-16 Dec 08	\$140	\$235	\$130
17 Dec 08-28 Feb 09	\$120	\$216	\$110
01 Mar 09-15 Apr 09	\$140	\$235	\$130

Prices are per person per night.

Reductions (See page 4)

Share a Triple Room	SAVE \$20 p.p.
Young Travellers 5-17 yrs	SAVE up to \$313
Early Payment	SAVE up to \$156 p.p.
Frequent Traveller	SAVE 5% p.p.
Extra Tour Discount	SAVE up to \$156 p.p.

Notes

REF: W100. Prices are per person sharing a twin room. *Tour departs Saturday & returns Thursday. All other tours depart on Sunday & return on Friday.

Christmas Market Departures *These departures have the opportunity to explore the colourful Christmas markets in Mannheim, Innsbruck & Lucerne.

Included Premium Highlights are worth approx. US\$254