## **INSIGHT VACATIONS** The Art of Travelling in Style



## **WORLDWIDE** Premium Guided Tours

INSIGHTVACATIONS.COM





Scan this code using your phone's camera to see what travelling in style is all about.

## Nelcome to the Art of Travelling in Style

Discover the world of premium guided tours.





## Britain & Ireland

34 Britain & Ireland 52 Country Roads Explorer of Ireland 13 DAYS 12 DAYS

54 Best of Ireland

& Scotland

56 Best of Britain

14 DAYS

9 DAYS

\* Gems of

Britain

5 DAYS

\*Available

Elegance of

**Great Britain** 

\*Available

British Gardens

**Chelsea Flower** 

11 DAYS

and the

Show

15 DAYS

72 Best of

Morocco

74 Northern Spain

76 Easy Pace Spain

78 Country Roads

of Portugal

80 Amazing Spain

10 DAYS

11 DAYS

10 DAYS

11 DAYS

\*Available

\*

- 37 Britain & Ireland Discovery 22 DAYS
- 40 Romantic Britain & Ireland 18 DAYS
- 42 Country Roads of Wales, Devon & Cornwall 11 DAYS
- 44 Country Roads of Scotland 9 DAYS
- 46 Focus on Ireland 7 DAYS
- 48 Irish Elegance 8 DAYS
- 50 Undiscovered Ireland 13 DAYS

## Spain, Portugal @ Morocco

- 60 Best of Spain & Portugal 15 DAYS
- & Morocco 17 DAYS
- 66 Grand Spain & Portugal 18 DAYS
- 18 DAYS
- 9 DAYS



## Italy, Sicily & Malta

- 84 Best of Italy 11 DAYS
- 87 Grand Italy & Sicily 17 DAYS
- 90 Easy Pace Italy 10 DAYS
- 92 Treasures of Italy 11 DAYS
- 94 Italian Elegance 12 DAYS
- 96 Italian Escapade 13 DAYS
- 98 Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily 14 DAYS
- 100 Country Roads of Italy 16 DAYS

## Alps, Central & Eastern Europe

- 110 Best of Germany 128 Dalmatian 12 DAYS 112 Glorious Switzerland 8 DAYS 114 Country Roads of Switzerland 14 DAYS 116 Country Roads of Bavaria, Switzerland & Austria 12 DAYS 118 Magical
  - Switzerland 7 DAYS
- 119 Winter Wonderland 9 DAYS
- 120 The Bohemian 9 DAYS
- 122 Easy Pace Budapest, Vienna & Prague 10 DAYS
- 124 Highlights of Poland 10 DAYS
- **Eastern Europe** 14 DAYS

- 102 Italian Intermezzo 8 DAYS
- 104 Sicily in Depth (with Malta Option) 8/13 DAYS
- 106 Country Roads of Northern Italy 10 DAYS
  - **Country Roads** \* of Puglia & the Neapolitan Riviera 9 DAYS \*Available online
  - \* Country Roads of Umbria & Tuscany 9 DAYS \*Available online
- Elegance 9 DAYS 130 Country Roads of Croatia 14 DAYS
- 132 Eastern Capitals & the Dalmatian Riviera 14 DAYS
- 134 The Eastern Discovery 14 DAYS
- 136 Treasures of the Balkans 18 DAYS
- 138 Alpine Christmas Markets 9 DAYS
- 139 Christmas Markets of Poland, Prague & Germany 8 DAYS
  - \* Christmas Markets of Austria & Bavaria 8 DAYS \*Available online
  - \* Christmas Markets of Germany 8 DAYS

\*Available online INSIGHT VACATIONS 05

- 63 Treasures of Spain, Portugal
- 68 Spanish Heritage

## 70 Highlights of Spain



## 126 Highlights of



## France, Belgium & the Netherlands

148 French

151 WWI

Heritage

Battlefields

22 DAYS

4 DAYS

142 Country Roads of Belgium, Luxemboura & the Netherlands 11 DAYS

- 144 Normandy, Brittany & the Loire Valley 8 DAYS
- 146 Country Roads of France 16 DAYS



## Northern Europe

164 Scenic Iceland

Liahts 7 DAYS

166 Warsaw & the

8 DAYS

14 DAYS

Heritage 28 DAYS

\*Available

Mediterranean

Mediterranean

**Grecian Fables** 

online

Fables

11 DAYS

Dreams

\*Available

8 DAYS

15 DAYS

Islands

14 DAYS

9 DAYS

\*Available online

\*Available

Israel Discovery

\*Available

Treasures of

Greece & the

\*Available

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Scandinavian

**Baltic States** 

& Northern

- 154 Country Roads of Scandinavia 12 DAYS
- 156 Spectacular Scandinavia & Its Fjords 15 DAYS
- 158 Grand Scandinavia 168 Northern 20 DAYS Capitals
- 160 Northern Lights of Scandinavia 10 DAYS
- 162 Natural Wonders of Iceland 9 DAYS

## Eastern Mediterranean

- 172 Wonders of Egypt 9 DAYS
- 174 Splendours of Egypt 12 DAYS
- 176 Wonders of Turkey 11 DAYS
- 178 Treasures of Turkey 15 DAYS
- 180 Jordan Experience (with Dead Sea Option) 7/9DAYS
- 182 Land of the Prophets 26 DAYS
- 184 Glories of Greece 7 DAYS
  - \* Greek Island Hopper 10 DAYS
    - \*Available online



## European Discoveries

- 188 Road to Rome 12 DAYS
- 190 Highlights of Europe 14 DAYS
- 192 European Discoverv 16 DAYS
- 194 European Grandeur 26 DAYS
- 196 Romantic European 18 DAYS
  - \* European Dream 11 DAYS \*Available online
  - \* Flavours of Europe 9 DAYS \*Available online
  - \* European Rhapsody 10 DAYS \*Available online
  - \* **European Affair** & Chelsea Flower Show 10 DAYS \*Available online

- \* European Flair 11 DAYS \*Available
- \* Splendid Europe 14 DAYS \*Available online
- \* An Art Lover's Taste of Europe 15 DAYS \*Available online
- \* Mediterranean Journey 17 DAYS \*Available
  - Chelsea Flower Show & Springtime Alps 18 DAYS \*Available online
- online \*



## India, Nepal & Sri Lanka

200 Classical India with Nepal 12 DAYS 202 Classical Sri Lanka 10 DAYS

## Latin America

- 206 Peru with Machu Picchu & the Nazca Lines 13 DAYS
- 208 Argentina, Uruguay & Brazil Discovery 11 DAYS
- \* Best of Chile from Atacama to Patagonia (with Easter Island Option) \*Available online 11/14 DAYS

## USA & Canada

- 212 Jewels of Alaska (with Glacier Discovery Cruise Option) 7/14 DAYS
- 21/1 American Parks Trail (with Rocky Mountaineer Option) 9/12 DAYS
- 216 Best of California 10 DAYS
- 218 America's Magnificent National Parks 15 DAYS
- 220 Country Roads of the Deep South 12 DAYS
- 222 Eastern Canada Discovery 8 DAYS
- 224 Canadian Rockies & Pacific Coast 14 DAYS
- 226 New England's Fall Foliage 8 DAYS
- 228 Best of Eastern Canada & USA 16 DAYS
- 230 Hawaii with Oahu, Maui & the Big Island 10 DAYS

\* Wonders of the American West 10 DAYS \*Available online

- \* Spectacular Rockies & Glaciers of Alberta (with Rocky Mountaineer
   Option)
   8/9 DAYS \*Available online
- \* Landscapes of the Canadian Maritimes 12 DAYS Available online
- Spectacular
   National Parks of
   Eastern USA

### 10 DAYS \*Available online

- \* Boston, Cape Cod & the Islands (with Canada & New England Cruise Option) 8/16 DAYS \*Available online
- Enchanting Canyonlands
   7 DAYS
   \*Available online
- Best of East Coast USA
   9 DAYS
   \*Available online



## Vacation Insights

## FROM OUR CEO



Dear guest,

## The art of travelling in style is our promise to you.

Every moment of our premium guided tours is seamlessly planned, taking the complexity out of travel. Giving you peace of mind to enjoy a magical experience from start to finish while offering a unique window into the destinations that we visit. As you'll see when you read this magazine, it's really as easy as 1,2,3...

- 1. You'll Travel in Comfort and Style; 4&5\* hotels as standard, more legroom on our customised luxury coaches, a choice of group size to suit your preferences, and superior dining experiences guaranteed to delight (pages 10-17).
- 2. Enjoy All the Sights and Insights: True VIP and priority access and hand-selected experiences, matched with insider knowledge from your Travel Director and Local Experts (pages 18-23).
- **3. Get up close and personal:** Your travels are enriched by experiences that give back to communities and people, leaving their mark long after the journey has ended (pages 24-31).

And you can travel with confidence when you book and travel with Insight. Insight is part of the family-owned and operated business, The Travel Corporation, a collection of 40 brands including Uniworld River Cruises and Trafalgar. We can't wait to welcome you onto one of our vacations in the very near future.

**GAVIN TOLLMAN** 

/IN TOLLMA CEO



FAMILY OWNED . FAMILY RUN DRIVEN BY SERVICE









Sit back and enjoy a seamless experience with our fabulous hotels, authentic dining and comfortable travel.

Travel is our passion and every step is designed with your comfort and pleasure in mind, giving you the vacation of your dreams.

Enjoy a premium journey packed full of stylish hotels and authentic dining. Savour the views as you travel on spacious customised coaches, so that you arrive refreshed at each destination, and benefit from smaller group sizes.

We believe incredible travel is about enjoying every moment, so the only question left for you is where do I want to go?

SMALLER GROUPS TWICE THE LEGROOM PREMIUM HOTELS DELICIOUS DINING STAY IN SUJUE hhighly rated, hand-picked



With highly rated, hand-picked hotels in fantastic locations, you can relax and enjoy every moment at your destination. Whether an elegant countryside castle or boutique city-centre property, each one offers superb service and stylish, comfortable rooms.

Our trusted hotel partners include NH Collection, Hilton and Marriott, along with smaller, boutique accommodation partners.









## Glacier View Lodge

Bring Mother Nature into your bedroom combining warmth, style and elegance with the great outdoors.

> ICEFIELDS PARKWAY ALBERTA, CANADA

## Twice the Legroon Twice the view

Your Insight coach is uniquely customised for smaller groups, with the superior comfort of twice the legroom and personal space of a regular coach experience. Stretch out, recline your seat and take in the views as you journey from one destination to the next.

Adjust your personal air-conditioning for your own comfort and stay in touch with complimentary Wi-Fi onboard. Benefit from elevated well-being standards including bestin-class hospital grade air filtering systems, with additional supplies such as masks, sanitiser and gloves freely available, should you need them.

INSIGHT CUSTOMISED COACH 40 SEATER



STANDARD COACH 53 SEATER







## Smaller Groups MAXIMISE YOUR TIME

Spend less time waiting in line. Create more memories with your travel companions and receive more personal attention from your Travel Director and Local Experts.

| CLASSIC<br>GROUPS | <b>33 GUESTS</b> (average) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| SMALL             | <b>24 GUESTS</b>           |
| GROUPS            | (maximum)                  |
| CUSTOM            | <b>10 GUESTS</b>           |
| GROUPS            | (minimum)                  |



## Deliciously Authentic Dining CULINARY CONNECTIONS

Delectable cuisine makes your journey exceptional. Emotional connections with a destination or culture can be created through the beauty of food and drink. Enjoy different experiences such as:

## Dine-at-home

Step into the home of a local host, learn the secrets of their favourite dishes and stories about their lives.

## Dine-around

On these evenings you choose from a a selection of our favourite local restaurants.

## Vegetarian excellence

Enjoy thoughtful, tasty vegetarian options throughout your journey, always packed full of flavour and flair.

## Farm-to-table

Whether in a coastal trattoria or on a sustainable farm, dine on locally sourced fresh ingredients and taste regional wines.



## Every bite counts

Delicious farm-to-table fare at Trattoria Terra Madre means everything is locally sourced or harvested on site, with excess produce donated to the community.

Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily p.98







# All the sights and the Insights

With famous landmarks as just the start, nourish your mind and enrich your soul. Discover a world within a world with in-depth insights at every destination from your Travel Directors and Local Experts.

MORE INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

TRAVEL DIRECTOR INSIGHTS IN-DEPTH LOCAL EXPERTS



## Ready for a Challenge?

Try your hand at pétanque, a traditional French pastime. Enjoy some fun and friendly rivalry with fellow travellers and locals.

Country Roads of France p.146 All the SIGHTS & INSIGHTS



Scan this code using your phone's camera to see what all the sights and insights is all about.

## Cross off the icons, BRING HOME THE STORIES

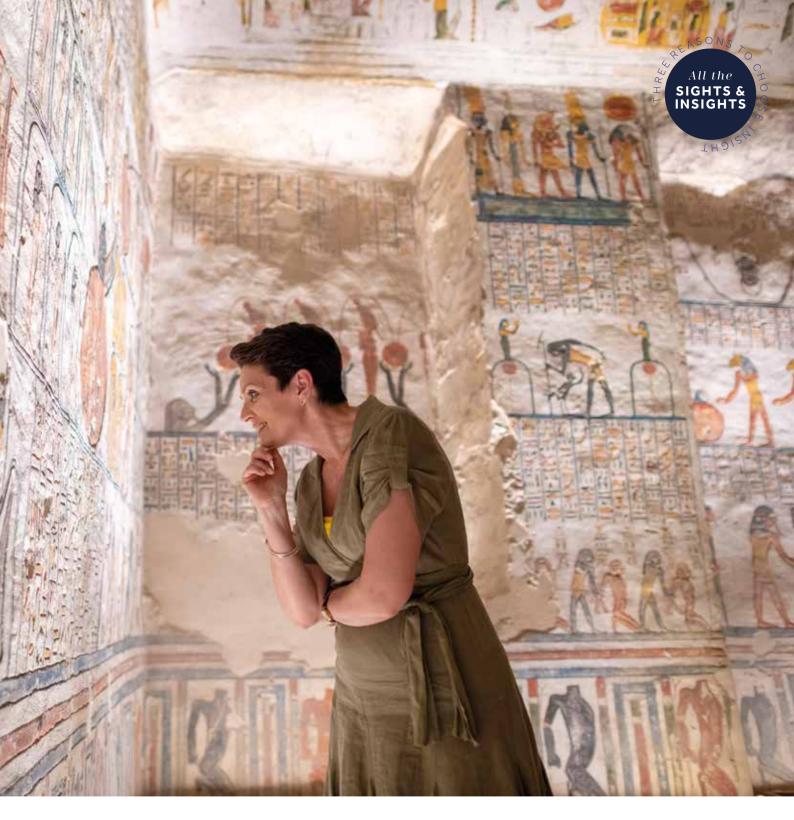


Whether you dream of crystal blue waters or yearn to tread amongst ancient ruins, thirst for history or desire nature's most breathtaking landscapes, we take you deeper in to the heart of every place you visit with more included experiences.

Come away enriched and informed, with the insights and expertise from your Local Experts and Travel Directors. Explore famous museums alongside a historian, uncover the secrets within the walls of Europe's grandest palaces and immerse yourself in nature's splendour with a ranger as your guide.

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES

On select days, you'll have a choice between two included activities, to truly personalise your experience.



## VALLEY OF THE KINGS IN EGYPT

Visit the Valley of the Kings with an Egyptologist, pictured above, where many pharaohs were buried, including Hatshepsut, Amenhotep I and Tutankhamun. Guided by your Local Expert, gaze upon the most recognisable symbols of ancient Egypt.

## TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE

Step inside a magical world of soaring mountains, turquoise waters and magnificent glaciers, with a Patagonian Ranch Cultural Experience. Join the local baqueanos, or cowboys, and learn what it was like to live and work in this remote and beautiful land before the arrival of tourism.

## BLENHEIM PALACE, ENGLAND

Join an esteemed historian for a unique insight into this masterpiece of English Baroque. Brimming with priceless art and tapestries, the palace was also the birthplace of Sir Winton Churchill.

## VATICAN, ITALY

Enjoy special fast-tracked entry into the Vatican Museums and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, normally offlimits to the public. With a Local Expert as your encyclopaedic guide, admire the Papal art collection, witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

## Your Travel Director MAKES YOUR DAY

Your Travel Director ensures a fabulous, seamless journey from start to finish, managing all communications, logistics and details.

## Keys to the city

They know the streets, the customs and the language. It's like having a friend in a city to show you the best restaurants and share the heartbeat of your destination.

## Magical Experiences

Benefit from a range of included and optional sightseeing and dining experiences throughout your journey, carefully curated by your Travel Director, drawing on their in-depth local knowledge.



## Explore Killarney's wooded paths

With a local expert Killarney sparkles. The town has been welcoming travellers, who appreciate the spectacular scenery of woodlands and lakes, for over 250 years.



## Hear LOCAL TALES

Local Insiders are part of our journeys, to enhance your vacation experience.

Uncover the finer details of the places and sights you visit through their personal, passionate lens, shared with vibrancy and flair.

## Up close and Personal

Through Insight Experiences and MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> Experiences you will come away enlightened, enriched and enthused, having supported communities along the way.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

MEET LOCAL COMMUNITIES UNIQUE INSIGHT EXPERIENCES





## Welcome home

Nonna and her family extend you a warm Italian welcome to their home. Share stories, laughs and delicious traditional food.

Country Roads of Puglia & The Neapolitan Riviera available online



Scan this code using your phone's camera to see what up close and personal is all about.

## Beyond Sightseeing, make lasting Connections

Meet fascinating people and step into their homes and their lives. Learn about history and pioneering projects, or maybe take a cookery class or learn to dance.

## SAVOUR VILLAGE SUN BREAD IN EGYPT

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a captivating and intimate afternoon with local residents, as you visit a family home. Be regaled with stories of village life and savour a tasting of authentic Egyptian sun bread.

## OYSTER HEAVEN IN CROATIA

Savour one of the world's greatest delicacies direct from the sea. Together with Tomislav, a local oyster farmer, learn about their cultivation and harvest, before enjoying a delicious Sea-to-Table tasting of fresh shellfish and local wine.

## EXPAND YOUR CULINARY SKILLS

IN CANADA Gain new culinary skills and learn more about delicious regional cuisine with a local chef, during a cooking demonstration at C'est Bon.

## RANGE THE

SWISS ALPS Discover the true magic of the Swiss Alps with a ranger, pictured opposite. Share in a lifetime's love of Mount Stanserhorn, and learn about local wildlife and flora in this stunning area.





REASONSTO

Getting up CLOSE & PERSONAL

THOIS

HREE

CABRIO

La se

## Help make Trovel a force for Good

Our Foundation, TreadRight, ensures that our impact on the planet, the people we visit on our journeys and on wildlife, is a positive one.

Under the guidance of TreadRight, our MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences are conscious travel experiences chosen with great care based on the positive social or environmental impact they have both on their communities and those that we visit.

Each experience is tied to the framework of 11 goals that are part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

On our tours these experiences give greater meaning to your travel experience, leaving you with a deeper appreciation and understanding of your destination and of the work of these communities and organisations.



## Introducing MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences

As an Insight guest, you will enjoy many experiences on your tour that align with our values of sustainable tourism. These experiences will enlighten your senses but also importantly leave a positive impact on local communities. They are chosen with great care using an assessment endorsed by sustainable tourism experts.

Meet people like Navajo Guide Larry, pictured here, at majestic Monument Valley, who will enrich your journey on a deeper level through sharing of stories and Navajo traditions. "Sharing Monument Valley's secrets and showing how sacred this land is to my people is very important and enjoyable to me. Hove introducing travellers to members of my tribe, to share stories about our daily lives and how we maintain our traditions in a modern society. You will see our traditional dress and hear the stories behind it, plus you'll meet weavers who will show you how we make our traditional rugs and other products."

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE

WE SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Scan this code using your phone's camera to see what 'How We Tread Right' is all about.

## Travel with Confidence

As part of The Travel Corporation, with over a century of experience and financial stability, you'll benefit from a worldwide support network to deliver a seamless vacation. Enjoy the reassurance of our extensive connections and knowledge.

## ON-THE-ROAD SUPPORT

Your on-road team are with you every step of the way, with 24/7 support, including your Travel Director, to deliver the vacation of your dreams.



## FLEXIBLE BOOKING

Enjoy easy changes, to meet your needs and benefit from options to choose new dates and or destinations.

Here are some of our sister brands. View our entire family of brands at ttc.com/brands.



THE RED CARNATION HOTEL COLLECTION

2







## **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our guests and Travel Directors



(@BRILLIANT.JOURNEYS
 TEMPLE BAR, IRELAND



(atoneill70 Kylemore Abbey, ireland



CAROLINEINSIGHT
 VACATIONS YORKSHIRE,
 ENGLAND



(a)TRUDYLEANNE GIANTS CAUSEWAY, NORTHERN IRELAND



(interstand) (inte



CINDY.GREEN.3781 CLIFFS OF MOHER, IRELAND



TRUDYLEANNE INISHMORE, IRELAND



**f** MIKE AND BRENDA FOX **BATH, ENGLAND** 



## Britain & Ireland





Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to watch a video about England. Britain & Ireland Explorer 13 DAYS | PAGE 34

Britain & Ireland Discovery 22 DAYS | PAGE 37

Romantic Britain & Ireland 18 DAYS | PAGE 40

Country Roads of Wales, Devon & Cornwall

11 DAYS | PAGE 42 Country Roads

of Scotland 9 DAYS | PAGE 44

Focus on Ireland 7 DAYS | PAGE 46

Irish Elegance 8 DAYS | PAGE 48

Undiscovered Ireland 13 DAYS | PAGE 50 Country Roads of Ireland

12 DAYS | PAGE 52



Best of Ireland & Scotland 14 DAYS | PAGE 54

Best of Britain 9 DAYS | PAGE 56

Gems of Britain 5 DAYS | Available online

Elegance of Great Britain

11 DAYS | Available online

British Gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show 15 DAYS | Available online



### **TRIP START DATES**

| 2023                                    | 2024                                    |
|---|---|
| <b>APR  </b> 09, 16, 23, 30             | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28             |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 09, 14, 21, 23, 28     | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 07, 12, 19, 21, 26     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 06, 11, 18, 20, 25     | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 04, 09, 16, 18, 23, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 04, 09, 16, 18, 23, 30 | <b>JUL  </b> 02, 07, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 01, 06, 13, 15, 20, 27, 29 | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 11, 13, 18, 25, 27     |
| <b>SEP</b>   03, 10, 12, 17, 24         | <b>SEP</b>   01, 08, 10, 15, 22         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/biexplorer** 

Select departures attend **The Royal** Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

13 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 31 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Bath: Visit the Roman Baths in Bath, providing quality education.

**INSIGHT EXPERIENCE** Waterford: Visit the House of Waterford Crystal.

## **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Killarney:** Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park.

Choose between two experiences in Blarney.

## **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in York • Light Lunch while cruising Loch Lomond • Choice of Dine-Around restaurants in Killarney • Celebration Dinner in Waterford.

## **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by ferry across the Irish Sea. Visit Shakespeare's birthplace • Edinburgh

Castle • Blarney Castle • Roman Baths and Pump Room • Stonehenge.

City tours of Edinburgh and Dublin, with Local Experts.

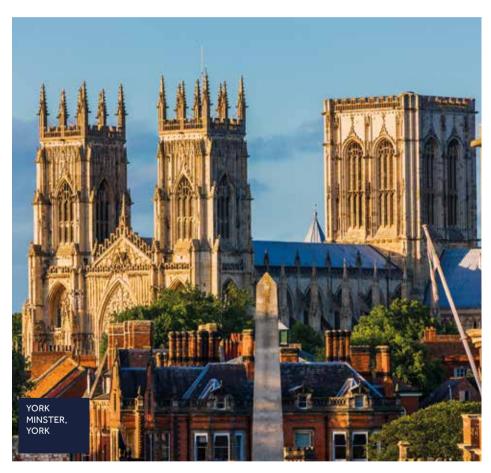
See Lake Windermere • Rock of Cashel.

## SCENIC DRIVES

Fall in love with incredible scenery as you pass the Cotswolds, English Lake District, Scottish Highlands, Isle of Skye, Loch Lomond, the Burren and Dartmoor.

## BRITAIN & IRELAND EXPLORER

"I love to learn, discover and share my knowledge with like-minded people, so they can discover riches they did not know existed." – Laurent, Travel Director





RING OF KERRY



GUINNESS STOREHOUSE, DUBLIN

34

## **DAY 1** STRATFORD AND MEDIEVAL YORK

At 07:30, meet your Travel Director at the trip hotel in London and journey to Stratford, beautifully situated on the River Avon. Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare, full of interesting memorabilia and artefacts relating to his life. Continue on to York, where you walk within the old city walls to the crooked houses of the Shambles and see York Minster, England's largest medieval cathedral

Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with drinks and the opportunity to mingle over a pleasant evening of dinner and wine. (DW)

Hilton York.

### DAY 2 DURHAM, HADRIAN'S WALL AND FDINBURGH

Relaxed Start. Stop in Durham to see the castle and Romanesque cathedral. Then view part of Hadrian's Wall, Britain's most impressive Roman monument, once spanning 80 miles from coastto-coast, marking the northern frontier of the mighty Roman Empire.

Cross the Scottish border to reach the elegant Scottish capital, Edinburgh. (B)

Jurv's Inn Edinburah.

## DAY 3 SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Journey down the Royal Mile to see the Palace of Holyroodhouse before crossing over to New Town. Walk with your Local Expert inside Edinburgh Castle and see the Scottish Crown Jewels, the Stone of Destiny and Mons Meg.

The afternoon is free to shop on Princes Street.

In the evening, select departures will enjoy the spectacle of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (B)

## **DAY 4** ST. ANDREWS AND INVERNESS

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife. Make your way to St. Andrews, home to the Old Course and birthplace of golf.

Enjoy free time to explore. Perhaps stroll to West Sands Beach where the famous 'Chariots of Fire' scene was filmed?

Your travels continue as you cross the Tay river. Travel via Blair Atholl and past the Grampian Mountains to the sparkling Spey Valley. Later, continue to Inverness and your hotel. (B) (DW)

Columba Hotel. Inverness.

### **DAY 5** LOCH NESS AND GLENCOE

In the morning, travel along Loch Ness and hear tales of the famous Nessie. Continue vour journev through some of the most stunning scenery in all of Scotland, found in the region of Glencoe.

### Reach the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond and admire the incredible scenery as you cruise what is arguably one of Scotland's most beautiful lochs, while enioving a light lunch.

Cross the English border before arriving at your lakeside hotel. (B) (L) (DW)

### Low Wood Bay Resort & Spa, Windermere/ Castle Green Hotel, Kendal.

## DAY 6 THE ENGLISH LAKES TO CHESTER

Relaxed Start. In the morning, discover the beauty of the Lake District. Continue to your hotel in Chester. In the afternoon, why not join The Beatles City Tour Optional Experience in Liverpool? (B)

Castle Green Hotel, Kendal.

## DAY 7 NORTH WALES AND OVER TO DUBLIN

Relaxed Start. In the morning, step back into Roman times in Chester, where you see the city's ancient encircling walls and remarkable 13th century black and white Rows.

Continue through Wales, passing the massive Conwy Castle before crossing over to the Isle of Anglesey. The village with the longest name in Europe will be visible - see if you are able to read it aloud!

From the port of Holyhead, set sail for Dublin in Ireland. (B)

### Trinity City Hotel/The Morgan Hotel, Dublin.





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. (Photo by @Wendy\_giles, Day 1, Stratford)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS Relax by the lake in Windermere. (Photo by (@Insighttdnigel, Day 5, Windermere))





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Stunning Scottish scenery. (Photo by @Melissab\_ travel, Day 5)



∛ Join/Leave Options

⊞UNESCO Heri tage Site

1 Central Hotels + Nights

(1) Scenic Hotels + Nights

Place Visited

ிCruise

### **CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE**

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



### DAY 8 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Experience Ireland's national world-famous drink with a guided visit to the Guinness Storehouse. Gain a fascinating insight into the history and traditions behind its production.

Later, become acquainted with Dublin's elegant squares during sightseeing with a Local Expert. See famous O'Connell Street, the Custom House and Dublin Castle.

For the rest of the afternoon, you are free to soak up the Irish atmosphere or browse the shops along Grafton Street. (B)

### DAY 9 FROM DUBLIN TO KILLARNEY

Travel to Ireland's premier thoroughbred horse breeding region for a fascinating, behind-thescenes visit of the National Stud with an equine professional, and visit the Japanese Gardens. Cross the rolling pastures that encircle Tipperary to Brookfield Farm and join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Meet Ailbhe Gerrard, a passionate farmer and beekeper, who shares her secrets to crafting the most delicious and sustainable honey of the island.

Indulge in a delicious Farm-to-Table lunch.

Your Dine-Around Evening offers authentic and intimate dining with your friends, from a handpicked selection of fine local restaurants. (B) (LW) (DW)

Killarney Plaza / The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney.

### DAY 10 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Relaxed Start. In the morning, join a delightful trip around the Ring of Kerry, a world of towering cliffs, lush lakelands and remote villages. Get a sense of the unhurried pace of Irish life as you pass through Ireland's highest mountain range and make your way to the three peaceful Lakes of Killarney. Explore Killarney with Insight Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys or alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park. (B)

### DAY 11 BLARNEY CASTLE AND WATERFORD

Explore Blarney with Insight Choice. Choose to climb up the ramparts and see the famous Stone of Eloquence. Alternatively, visit the lush gardens of the estate with a senior gardener. Travel on through the scenic port of Dungarvan to the historic walled city of Waterford, with its 11th century Reginald Tower. Enjoy a guided visit of the world-famous House of Waterford Crystal and meet a master craftsman.

In the evening, after miles of fun and fascinating sights, spirits will be high during your Celebration Dinner. Toast to your newfound friends — Sláinte! (B) (DW)

Granville Hotel, Waterford.

### DAY 12 ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO CARDIFF

From the port of Rosslare, board your ferry to cross the Irish Sea. A pleasant drive will then take you into the rural scenery of Pembrokeshire.

Continue past the valleys of southern Wales to the capital, Cardiff, famous for its imposing castle and brilliant Principality Stadium. (B)

Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.

## DAY 13 ROMAN BATHS, STONEHENGE AND LONDON

Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. See the incredibly well-preserved remains of one of the greatest spas of the ancient world, still flowing with the natural hot water from the springs below.

Your journey continues across Salisbury Plain for a visit to mysterious Stonehenge - no-one can be sure why they were built, or even how prehistoric man could move such huge blocks of stone. Your exploration of Britain and Ireland draws to a close upon your return to the hotel in London. (B)



O

INSIGHT CHOICE Taking a gentle hike in Killarney National Park. (Photo by @Lindakohlmoos23, Day 10, Killarney National Park)



**INSIGHT CHOICE** See Blarney House and visit the tranquil gardens with a senior gardener. (*Photo by @Lindakohlmoos23, Day 11, Blarney*)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the ancient site of Stonehenge. (Photo by @Inds\_tagram, Day 13, Stonehenge)

# BRITAIN & IRELAND DISCOVERY

"This itinerary is so special because we venture to the north of Scotland and the Orkney Islands, which are absolutely breathtaking." - Dave, Travel Director





GIANT'S CAUSEWAY A #MAKETRAVELMATTER EXPERIENCE



LAKE DISTRICT

#### **TRIP START DATES**

| 2023  | 2024  |
|---|---|
| <b>APR</b>   12, 19, 23, 26, 30                 | <b>APR  </b> 10, 17, 21, 24, 28                 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 03, 07, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28.31  | <b>MAY  </b> 01, 05, 08, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28     | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 05, 09, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 05, 09, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 | <b>JUL  </b> 03, 07, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 02, 06, 09, 13,16, 20, 23, 27, 30  | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28     |
| SEP   03, 06, 13, 20                            | <b>SEP</b>   01, 04, 11, 18                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bidiscovery

Select departures attend **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**.

#### © REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

22 DAYS 5 COUNTRIES 33 MEALS 40 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Giant's Causeway:** Visit the legendary Giant's Causeway, site of wonders. At the visitor centre, learn about the efforts to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, participating in habitat restoration.

Visit the Roman Baths in Bath, providing quality education.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Kilkenny:** Visit Kilkenny Castle with a Local Expert. On a guided tour, learn the history of this magnificent castle and that of the powerful family that came to call it home for so many centuries.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Dartmoor National Park:** Choose to walk amid the rolling valleys of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, sail for a cruise of Plymouth harbour, where the pilgrims left over 400 years ago.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Stratford-upon-Avon • Choice of Dine-Around options in Killarney • Celebration Dinner in Cornwall.

#### DAY 1 LONDON TO STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

At 08:00, meet your Travel Director at the hotel in London.

Travel to Oxford, home to one of the world's most famous universities.

Continue via Cotswolds villages to Stratford-upon-Avon and visit William Shakespeare's birthplace.

Enjoy your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford.

#### DAY 2 MEDIEVAL YORK

**Relaxed Start.** A leisurely drive brings you to the city of York; its history goes back to the time of Romans and Vikings.

Inside the city walls, see the York Minster and explore the narrow streets to the topsy-turvy Shambles, where warped, overhanging timberframed houses lean so far that they almost touch! (B) (DW)

#### Hilton York.

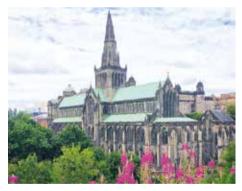
#### DAY 3 BY THE LAKES TO EDINBURGH

Travel across the Yorkshire Dales and wild Pennines to the Lake District - a wonderland of rugged mountains and tranquil waters, inspiration to many English poets.

Visit Wordsworth's grave in Grasmere and continue to Gretna Green, where runaway lovers once married

Then it's on to the majestic Scottish capital. (B)

#### Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel.





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See the Glasgow Cathedral with your Travel Director. (Photo by @Melissab\_travel, Day 9, Glasgow)





AUTHENTIC DINING Visit the Victorian Gothic Hall at Abbey Cwm Hyr, before a light lunch of Welsh favourites. (Photo by @Daveneil9, Day 19 Abbey Cwn Hyr)

#### DAY 4 SCOTLAND'S CITY OF CULTURE

Join a Local Expert for a trip along Princes Street to see the monument to Sir Walter Scott and the 18th century New Town.

Over in the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, which stands at the bottom of the Royal Mile.

Visit the castle, home of Mons Meg, the Stone of Destiny and the Honours of Scotland - Scotland's glittering Crown Jewels.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

In the evening, select departures will attend the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (B)

# DAY 5 THE HIGHLAND CAPITAL OF INVERNESS

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife. Make your way to St. Andrews, home to the Old Course and birthplace of golf.

During your free time to explore, perhaps wander to the university where Kate Middleton met her Prince Charming. Your journey continues to Blair Atholl, passing the Grampian Mountains and Spey Valley.

Stop at Culloden Moor to visit the Culloden Visitor Centre.

Travel to Inverness, where your centrally located hotel is set on the banks of the River Ness and looks up to Inverness Castle. (B) (DW)

#### Columba Hotel, Inverness.

#### DAY 6 LOCH NESS TO WICK

Start the day with a journey of discovery on a Loch Ness cruise. Soak up the scenery, historic monuments and intriguing tales of Nessie in the heart of Scotland's great glen.

Your travels then follow the rugged coast north to the fishing port of Wick.

Visit the Distillery to taste a wee dram of whisky and learn about the production of the national drink. (B) (DW)

#### The Norseman Hotel, Wick.

#### DAY 7 ORKNEY ISLANDS EXPERIENCE

Visit the most northern community on the British mainland, John O'Groats.

Board the ferry to the beautiful Orkney Islands to meet your Local Expert. Visit the 5,000-yearold village of Skara Brae, the mysterious Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and the small chapel built by Italian prisoners of war during World War II. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 8 OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

Admire the stunning landscapes en route to Ullapool. Continue along Loch Carron and through Glen Carron, before crossing to the magical Isle of Skye. Hear the story of the song 'Over the Sea to Skye,' and admire the scenic splendour on the way to your hotel in Broadford. (B) (DW)

The Dunollie Hotel, Broadford.

#### DAY 9 LOCH LOMOND TO GLASGOW

**Relaxed Start.** Return to the mainland to see the remote Eilean Donan Castle and continue to the WWII Commando Memorial for a chance to view Ben Nevis.

Journey on to the Valley of Glencoe and stop on the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond before arriving in Glasgow. (B)

Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.



## DAY 10 WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS ON THE WAY TO LONDONDERRY

Cross the Irish Sea to arrive in Northern Ireland. Journey along the coastline at the mouth of the famous Nine Glens of Antrim, passing sandy beaches beneath towering basalt cliffs. Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. (B) (DW)

#### Da Vinci's Hotel Derry, Londonderry.

#### DAY 11 BELLEEK AND SLIGO BAY

In the morning, meet Ronan, one of the nation's great storytellers, as he takes you inside Londonderry's well-preserved walls. Walk down steep Shipquay Street to the Gothic Guildhall, and cross the border to see O'Donnell's Castle in Donegal. Journey south to the Belleek Pottery and Visitor Centre and meet craftspeople. Then it's on to your country retreat, set on the scenic shores of Sligo Bay. (B) (DW)

#### Clayton Hotel, Sligo

#### DAY 12 GALWAY AND LIMERICK

Experience the beautiful rugged landscape of Connemara.

In Galway, see St. Nicholas Cathedral, the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President John F. Kennedy. Move onto your hotel in Limerick, famous for rhymes, lace and Georgian houses. (B)

The George Hotel Limerick.

#### DAY 13 ADARE TO KILLARNEY

**Relaxed Start.** Join an exploration of Limerick. Travel via the thatched village of Adare. (B)

Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### DAY 14 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** In the morning, enjoy a trip around the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's greatest scenic journeys.

For your Dine-Around Evening choose from handpicked selection of local restaurants. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 15 BLARNEY CASTLE AND CORK

Cross the rugged Derrynasaggart Mountains, as you head for Blarney to visit the ruined 15th century castle, home to the famous the Stone of Eloquence. Continue on to Cork for a city tour before checking into your hotel. (B)

Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

#### DAY 16 KILKENNY AND DUBLIN

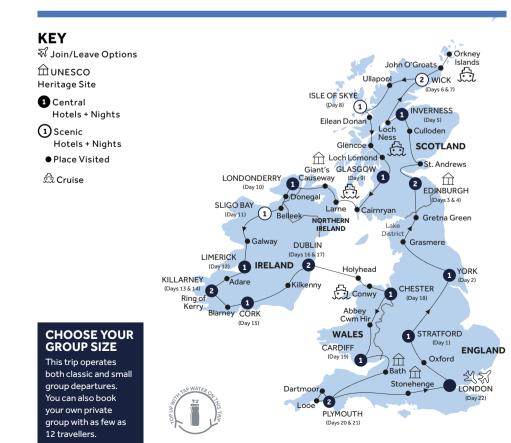
**Relaxed Start.** Travel to Kilkenny and enjoy a guided visit to Kilkenny Castle with a Local Expert. Continue to Ireland's lively capital and spend a leisurely evening relaxing, exploring or perhaps taking in a famous Irish cabaret? (B)

Trinity City Hotel, Dublin.

#### DAY 17 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Experience Ireland's national, world-famous drink with a guided visit to the Guinness Storehouse. Gain a fascinating insight into the history and traditions behind its production.

Meet your Local Expert who will show you the sights of the city, including Dublin's elegant Georgian squares, O'Connell Street and the Custom House. (B)



## DAY 18 ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO CHESTER

Bid farewell to Ireland as you board the ferry to Wales.

Cross the Isle of Anglesey and continue over the Menai Straits for a stop in Conwy to see its castle. Cross the English border to Chester, a town that boasts relics of its Roman history, as well as the unique black and white shopping arcades, known as the Rows.

Your Travel Director will show you the wellpreserved city walls, Jubilee Clock and impressive cathedral. (B) (DW)

## The Queen at Chester, BW Premier Collection by Best Western.

#### DAY 19 THE WELSH MARCHES TO CARDIFF

**Relaxed Start.** Head south to The Hall at Abbey Cwm Hir. Meet the owner, Paul Humpherston, who will explain the history of the stunning building and its surrounds.

#### Enjoy a light lunch of locally sourced delights including Welsh favourites, such as a cheeseboard featuring Welsh cheeses and chutney, artisan breads and bara brith.

Continue through the countryside to the Welsh capital and see the Principality Stadium and Cardiff Castle. (B) (L)

#### Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.

#### DAY 20 BATH AND SOMERSET

Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. (B)

Crowne Plaza Plymouth/Copthorne Hotel Plymouth.

## DAY 21 DISCOVER DARTMOOR AND THE CORNISH COAST

**Relaxed Start.** Explore Dartmoor with Insight Choice. Choose to join a scenic exploration of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, cruise the scenic Plymouth harbour, where 400 years ago the pilgrim ship, Mayflower set sail for America.

Join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

## DAY 22 ANCIENT STONEHENGE TO LONDON

Travel across Salisbury Plain to visit the prehistoric and mysterious Stonehenge, where the strange and awe-inspiring monoliths are reputed to be up to 5,000 years old.

Your discovery of Britain and Ireland concludes upon your return to the hotel in London. (B)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

| 2023                 | 2024                    |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 19      | <b>APR  </b> 17         |
| MAY   03, 17, 31     | <b>MAY  </b> 01, 15, 29 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 14, 28  | <b>JUN  </b> 12, 26     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 12, 26  | <b>JUL  </b> 10, 24, 31 |
| AUG   02, 09, 16, 23 | <b>AUG  </b> 07, 14, 21 |
| <b>SEP  </b> 06, 20  | <b>SEP</b>   04, 18     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/romanticbi

Select departures attend **The Royal** Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

**18 DAYS** 5 COUNTRIES 26 MEALS 32 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Ring of Kerry:** Visit a local seaweed farm striving to protect the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic Irish coasts.

Visit the Roman Baths in Bath, providing quality education.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Waterford:** Visit Waterford Crystal to learn more about the art of crystal carving that has been practised here since the late 1700s. See master craftsmen utilise traditional cutting and blowing methods at one of the few remaining artisan workshops.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Dartmoor National Park:** Choose to walk amid the rolling valleys of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, sail for a cruise of Plymouth harbour, where the pilgrims left over 400 years ago.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Stratford-Upon-Avon • Afternoon tea at Blair Castle in Inverness • Sunday roast in Killarney • Choice of Dine-Around restaurants in Killarney • Celebration Dinner in Torquay.

Taste Guinness at the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by cruise on Loch Ness • Cross the Irish Sea by ferry. Visit Shakespeare's birthplace.

# ROMANTIC BRITAIN & IRELAND

"Our guests love hearing about the legends of the Scottish Highlands; from the mysteries of Nessie to the outlaw Rob Roy all while surrounded by incredible scenery." – John, Travel Director





DINGLE PENNINSULA



DARTMOOR

#### DAY 1 OXFORD AND STRATFORD-UPON-ΔVON

Meet your Travel Director at 07:45 at the hotel in London. Depart for the university town of Oxford, before continuing to Stratford-upon-Avon. Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace.

Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with drinks at a local pub. (DW)

#### DoubleTree by Hilton Stratford-upon-Avon.

#### DAY 2 LINCOLN AND MEDIEVAL YORK

Travel through the heart of 'Robin Hood Country' on your way to visit Lincoln. Continue to York. Saunter along the Shambles to reach York Minster. (B) (DW)

#### Hilton York.

#### DAY 3 THE ENGLISH LAKES TO EDINBURGH

Drive through the Lake District National Park, inspiring a host of English poets. Stop in Wordsworth's village of Grasmere. Cross the border at Gretna Green and continue to the Scottish capital. (B)

#### Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh.

#### DAY 4 SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Travel down the Roval Mile to see the Palace of Holyroodhouse - before crossing over to New Town. Walk with your Local Expert inside Edinburgh Castle for spectacular views of the town. In the evening, select departures will attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (B)

#### **DAY 5** st. and rews and inverness

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife and make your way to St. Andrews, passing the Old Course where golf was born in the 15th century. Pass Culloden Moor. Stop at Blair Castle and Gardens, home to the

Atholl Highlanders for over 19 generations.

Be treated to authentic Farm-to-Table tea and scones - an experience not to be missed in Scotland

Continue on to Inverness. (B) (AT) (DW)



Enjoy a journey of discovery on a Loch Ness cruise. Afterwards, pause for a photo of Eilean Donan Castle and cross over the sea to Skye. (B) (DW)

#### The Dunollie Hotel. Broadford.

#### DAY 7 LOCH LOMOND AND GLASGOW

Return to the mainland to see the World War II Commando Memorial, shadowed by Ben Nevis. Continue through Fort William and along the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond, en route to Glasdow

See Glasgow's grand public buildings. (B)

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.

#### DAY 8 ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO BELFAST

A short ferry ride across the Irish Sea to reach the vibrant capital of Northern Ireland, Belfast, Meet Hilda, your Local Expert, for a passionate city tour of Belfast. (B)

#### Europa Hotel, Belfast,

#### DAY 9 DUBLIN CITY SIGHTSEEING.

Relaxed Start. Journey to Dublin to meet your Local Expert and see O'Connell Street, Dublin Castle and St. Patrick's Cathedral. (B)

Clayton Hotel Charlemont, Dublin.

#### DAY 10 A PINT OF THE 'BLACK STUFF'

Head to the Guinness Storehouse and enjoy a tasting of Ireland's world-famous drink. (B)

#### DAY 11 GALWAY, THE CLIFFS OF MOHER AND LIMERICK

Travel west to Galway. Cross the limestone landscape of the Burren, to see the Cliffs of Moher. (B)

The George Hotel Limerick.



Relaxed Start, Explore Limerick with your Travel Director, and then set off for the picturesque thatched village of Adare. Enjoy more spectacular scenery as you make your way through the great cliffs, wide skies and ocean views of the Dingle Peninsula to Killarney.

For dinner you are treated to a traditional Sunday roast, with all the trimmings. (B) (DW)

Killarnev Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### **DAY 13** RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Relaxed Start. Experience the Ring of Kerry, where mountains, valleys, lakes and sea blend into a landscape that is often breathtaking beyond words. Meet John for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit his family-run seaweed farm on the Ring of Kerry. Learn about sustainable farming practices that protect the wild Irish Atlantic coasts.

In the evening, you are invited to choose your own dining experience from a selection of restaurants in Killarney for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 14** BLARNEY CASTLE AND WATERFORD

Visit the ruined 15th century Blarney Castle. Continue to the walled city of Waterford. On your guided visit of the House of Waterford Crystal, you will meet an artisan and see their fine work. (B) (DW)

#### Granville Hotel, Waterford.

#### DAY 15 ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO CARDIFF

Take the ferry across the Irish Sea to Cardiff. Join an orientation of the port city, upon the River Taff. (B)

#### Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.

#### **DAY 16 BATH AND GLASTONBURY**

Cross the Severn Bridge to reach the City of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the Roman Baths and learn how this hub of

culture is pioneering educational investments to benefit the community, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Your journey continues to mystical Glastonbury and on to the seaside town of Torquay. (B)

The Imperial Torquay (Sea view rooms).

#### DAY 17 THE CORNISH COAST

Explore Dartmoor with Insight Choice. Choose to join a scenic exploration of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing cruise of Plymouth harbour.

At your Celebration Dinner, enjoy a fine selection of local dishes with wine. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 18** SALISBURY PLAIN AND STONEHENGE

Visit the mysterious megaliths of Stonehenge. Your escorted journey draws to a close upon return to your hotel in London. (B)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



| 2023                | 2024                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14 | MAY 05, 12, 26          |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11 | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 09, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 30 | <b>JUL</b> 28           |
| <b>SEP</b> 03, 10   | AUG   18                |
| <b>OCT  </b> 01, 08 | SEP 01, 08, 29          |
|                     | <b>0CT  </b> 06         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crwalesdevon

#### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 16 MEALS 12 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Bath:** Visit the incredibly well-preserved Roman Baths. Discover 2000 years of history and learn how this hub of culture is pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Dorchester:** Visit the Manor House of Athelhampton and join Estate Manager Owen on a guided tour to discover the beautiful Tudor architecture and Elizabethan style gardens.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Brecon Beacons:** Choose to explore the beautiful flora of the Brecon Beacons with a Local Expert, and forage for edible and medicinal plants. Alternatively, visit a local kitchen garden for a peek into the freshest seasonal aromatics from this stunning area.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Bath • Hearty Farm-to-Table Lunch in Brecon Beacons • Celebration Dinner in Dorchester.

#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Exmoor National Park • Glastonbury Abbey • Stonehenge • Salisbury Cathedral.

See Cardiff Castle • Oxford • Picturesque Cotswolds villages • Plymouth Hoe, the Barbican and Mayflower Steps in Plymouth • Looe • Tintagel Castle • Port Isaac • Padstow • Penzance.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF WALES, DEVON & CORNWALL

"I really enjoy using my knowledge and expertise to help give people an experience that truly enriches their lives and makes them really happy." – **Sue, Travel Director** 





BRECON BEACONS, WALES



STONEHENGE

# DAY 1 OXFORD, THE COTSWOLDS AND BATH

Welcome to England. At 07:30 you'll be picked up from the hotel in London before making your way along the scenic Great West Way road to Oxford for an orientation with your Travel Director. Continue your journey on to the Cotswolds to see Bourton-on-the-Water and the pretty market town of Stow-on-the-Wold. Heading to the historic city of Bath for an orientation of the city.

## End your day with a delicious traditional Sunday roast at your Welcome Dinner. (DW)

Apex Hotel, Bath.

#### DAY 2 BATH THROUGH THE YEARS

**Relaxed Start.** Start your day by exploring Bath's fascinating Roman History. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the incredibly well-preserved Roman Baths, also an important hub of culture and education for the area. During free time perhaps learn more about the life of the esteemed author Jane Austen, who made Bath her home? (B)

#### DAY 3 BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK

Visit the Brecon Beacons with Insight Choice. Choose to join your Local Expert for a foraging walk in the stunning surroundings of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Under her tuition she will show you how to reconnect with nature, and forage for edible and medicinal plants. Alternatively, visit a local kitchen garden for a peek into the freshest seasonal aromatics from this stunning area.

After a morning in the great outdoors, rectify your lethargic bliss with a hearty Farm-to-Table pub lunch, where a delicious seasonal menu with local ingredients will be available. (B) (LW)

#### Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.

group with as few as 12 travellers.

#### DAY 4 CARDIFF

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a relaxed start this morning. Join your Travel Director for an orientation of this vibrant city. See Principality Stadium, home of Welsh Rugby, and Cardiff Castle. The rest of your day is at leisure. (B)

# DAY 5 EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK TO PLYMOUTH

Begin your day at Glastonbury Abbey, where you can explore its historic ruins. Founded in the 7th century, the monastery is now registered as a Grade I listed building. Later, you'll move on to to the port city of Plymouth in Devon. Famous Famous for its cobbled streets, gin distilleries and of course the Mayflower. (B)

#### Crowne Plaza Hotel, Plymouth.

#### DAY 6 EXPLORING THE SOUTHWEST

Today you'll journey to the quaint coastal town of Looe, a holiday hotspot in the Victorian Era. Next move on to St Ives, where galleries and studios line the streets. Later, head to Penzance, famous for the comic opera "The Pirates of Penzance". True to the story, its shores had met real-life pirates, a 100 years previously in the late 18th Century. (B)

#### The Royal and Fortescue Hotel, Barnstaple

#### DAY 7 LEGENDS AND GLITZ IN CORNWALL

Begin your day in Tintagel, mentioned in the legendary tale of King Arthur. Move on to Port Isaac, a pretty fishing village on the Atlantic coast. It was the filming location of British television show Doc Martin, and more recently, Poldark. Continue on to Padstow and perhaps try traditional fish and chips for lunch? (B)

## DAY 8 EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK TO DARTMOOR

Stop in the village town of Lynmouth, before journeying to Exmoor National Park, a beautiful area of moorland in Somerset. Your day ends at Bovey Castle, nestled in the rolling valleys of Dartmoor National Park, this five-star accommodation stands amoung 275 acres of beautiful countryside.

Catch up with your fellow travellers tonight over a wholesome dinner at the hotel. (B) (DW)

#### Bovey Castle, Dartmoor.

#### DAY 9 COUNTRY HOUSES IN DORSET

**Relaxed Start.** Your next stop is at Athelhampton, a 500-year-old Tudor Manor House in the heart of Dorset. Join the estate manager Owen for a walk through one of the world's greatest estates.

Next enjoy a quintessential Devonshire high tea, with freshly baked scones and sandwiches. After, enjoy free time to explore the tranquil Elizabethan gardens. (B) (MT) (DW)

## Summer Lodge Country House Hotel & Restaurant, Dorset.

#### DAY 10 JURASSIC COAST AND WEYMOUTH

Say hello to England's only natural World Heritage Site, the Jurassic Coast, as we visit pretty Lulworth Cove. Take a stroll on the pebbled beach or learn about the unique geology at the Visitor Centre. Next, we visit Weymouth, where you will have free time to explore this harbor town. Or take an Optional visit to historic Nothe Fort and indulge in a seafood lunch.

Tonight, toast to your travels and memories made at your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 11 SALISBURY & STONEHENGE

This morning make your way to Stonehenge, a prehistoric monument found in Wiltshire, dating back to around 3000 BC. Next, head to Salisbury and enjoy a visit to the 13th century cathedral. End your day back in London at the hotel. (B)





AUTHENTIC DINING Visit the Manor House of Athelhampton. (Day 10, Dorset)



| 2023  | 2024                        |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 15, 22, 29                     | <b>APR  </b> 13, 20, 27     |
| <b>MAY  </b> 06, 13, 20,                    | <b>MAY  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25 |
| 27,29                                       | <b>JUN  </b> 01, 08, 15,    |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 12, 17,                | 22, 29                      |
| 24, 26                                      | <b>JUL  </b> 06, 13, 20, 27 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 01, 08, 10, 15, 22, 24, 29, 31 | <b>AUG  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24 |
| <b>AUG</b>   05, 07, 12, 14,                | <b>SEP</b>   07, 14, 21, 28 |
| 19, 21, 26                                  |                             |

**SEP |** 02, 04, 09, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crscotland

Select departures attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

9 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 15 MEALS 19 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Glencoe:** Join a ranger in the spectacular Valley of Glencoe, learn about the protection of this rare ecosystem and the important work reintroducing lost indigenous species to its flora and fauna.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Orkney Islands: Cruise to the windswept Orkney Islands on a full day guided journey. Come face-to-face with relics spanning human history, from pagan stone circles to reminders of wartime tragedy. Join a Local Expert for a fascinating journey into the history of this remote part of the world.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

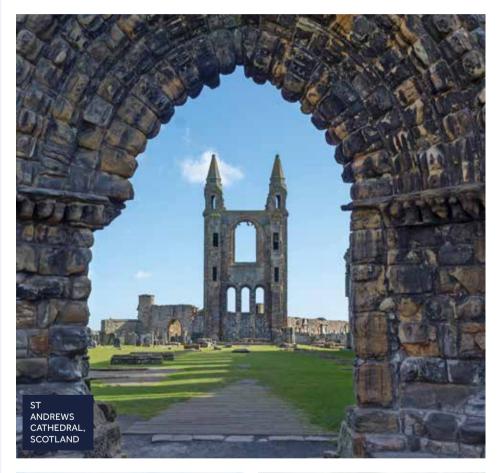
Wick: Choose to visit the Old Pulteney Distillery to taste a wee dram of whisky. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with a visit to the highly rated Wick Heritage Museum and hear about the past of this once thriving fishing community.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Blair Atholl: Visit Blair Castle and Gardens, which has been home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries, and tour the ballroom to learn about the history of the estate. Relish a delicious afternoon sipping on freshly brewed coffee or tea and tasting homemade scones with berry jam and sweet cream.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF SCOTLAND

"A fun fact that I love sharing with guests is that there's more water in Loch Ness than all of the rivers and lakes in England and Wales combined – the perfect hiding place for something huge!" - John, Travel Director





ORKNEY ISLANDS



GLENCOE

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

On arrival at Edinburgh airport, transfers depart for your hotel at 09:00, 11:00 and 13:00. Then the rest of the day is yours to relax.

## Join your Travel Director at 16:30 for a Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

On select departures, during your time in Edinburgh you will also attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo — a colourful mix of pipes and drums, dance and display, set against the floodlit backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. (DW)

#### Malmaison Hotel Edinburgh.

## DAY 2 EDINBURGH, THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. In the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. Drive along Princes Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18th century New Town with its neoclassical Georgian facades. Venture up the Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle, home of Mons Meg, the Stone of Destiny and Scotland's Crown Jewels.

The rest of the day is at leisure; why not visit the art treasures in the National Gallery? (B)  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}$ 

# DAY 3 TO ST. ANDREWS AND THE HIGHLAND CAPITAL OF INVERNESS

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife and journey to St. Andrews for an orientation.

Travel across the Tay and stop at Blair Castle and Gardens, home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries. Tour the magnificent ballroom and learn about the history of the estate. During your visit relish a delicious cream tea.

Continue to Inverness, where your luxury hotel is set within four acres of manicured grounds. (B) (AT) (DW)

**KEY** 

# DAY 4 CULLODEN, LOCH NESS AND ONTO THURSO

See Culloden Moor where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was crushed in 1746 and visit the Culloden Visitor Centre. Continue along the shores of Loch Ness and keep your eyes peeled for the legendary monster!

Explore Wick with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Old Pulteney Distillery to taste a wee dram of its award-winning whiskys. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with a visit to the highly rated Wick Heritage Museum and hear about the past of this once thriving fishing community. (B) (DW)

#### The Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

#### DAY 5 A DAY IN THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

Start the day by driving to the most northerly inhabited village in mainland Britain. Board the ferry to the beautiful Orkney Islands where the countryside is breathtakingly majestic and the tranquillity supports a quieter pace of life. Here the hardy locals say they live 'below the wind and above the water.'

Your Local Expert accompanies you as you visit the 5,000-year-old village of Skara Brae, the mysterious Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and the small chapel built by Italian prisoners during World War II. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 6 OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

Travel through stunning landscapes along the northern coast with its white sandy beaches, and further inland to misty valleys and glens, lochs and rushing waters.

Then it's 'Over the Sea to Skye,' the largest and most beautiful island of the Inner Hebrides. On the way to Broadford, hear romantic tales of how young Flora MacDonald helped rescue Bonnie Prince Charlie and see the dramatic Cuillin Hills. (B) (DW)

Skara Brae

#### The Dunollie Hotel, Broadford.

# DAY 7 THROUGH THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO GLENCOE

**Relaxed Start.** Cross to the Kyle of Lochalsh and stop for a photo at Eilean Donan Castle, which under a clear sky offers a perfect reflection in its loch.

Continue to the WWII Commando Memorial with views of Ben Nevis.

Enjoy spectacular scenery en route to the Valley of Glencoe. Join a ranger for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, learn about the protection of this rare ecosystem and the important work reintroducing lost indigenous species to its flora and fauna.

Delight in market-fresh Scottish ingredients as you join your newfound friends for a sumptuous Celebration Dinner. Don't be surprised if, by the end of the evening, you're singing 'Auld Lang Syne'. (B) (DW)

Ballachulish Hotel, Glencoe/Isle of Glencoe Hotel.

# DAY 8 ALONG THE BONNIE BANKS OF LOCH LOMOND TO GLASGOW

Relaxed Start. Spend time around peaceful Loch Lomond or the 'Queen of Scottish Lochs', according to Sir Walter Scott. Perhaps experience the beauty and tranquility of the loch with an optional cruise before continuing to Glasgow? An orientation drive through the city will show you the grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral. Then the rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

Radisson Blu Hotel. Glasgow.

#### DAY 9 DEPART GLASGOW

Departure transfers arrive at Glasgow airport at 06:30 and 09:00. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Stop for a photo of Eilean Donan Castle. (Photo by @Annewilson1076, Day 7, Isle of Skye)





| 2023                            | 2024                            |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 09, 16, 23, 30     | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25     | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| AUG   06, 13, 20, 27            | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25     |
| <b>SEP  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24     | <b>SEP  </b> 01, 08, 15, 22     |
|                                 |                                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/focusireland

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

7 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 10 MEALS 13 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Killarney:** Meet John and Freda, passionate restaurant owners, and learn how their farmto-table concept operates. Enjoy a delicious meal made from fresh ingredients all sourced within a five-mile radius.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Dublin:** Visit Trinity College, before marvelling at the ancient Book of Kells, created by monks and dating from A.D. 800.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Killarney:** Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Dublin • Celebration Dinner in Cork.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Cliffs of Moher • Blarney Castle • Queenstown Story Cobh.

See Dublin • Galway • Adare's thatched cottages • Killarney • Cork.

#### **SCENIC DRIVES**

Irish scenery is some of the most beautiful in the world. Relax and admire the views as you travel through the Burren, Derrynasaggart MountainS and along the Ring of Kerry.

# FOCUS ON IRELAND

"I enjoy teaching you some local phrases, such as: 'Míle buíochas,' which means 'a thousand thanks', and 'Go n-éirí linn,' which I use often throughout the trip to say, let's go!" **– Katie, Travel Director** 





FARM-TO-TABLE, KILLARNEY A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE



JAUNTING CAR, KILLARNEY

#### DAY 1 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

At Dublin airport, transfers leave for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

Meet your Travel Director at 14:30 for an orientation of Dublin. Pass the St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christchurch Cathedral. See the 9th century Book of Kells. Walk the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College accompanied by a Local Expert.

Enjoy a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with drinks and the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over the course of the evening. (DW)

Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

#### DAY 2 TO GALWAY, CITY OF THE TRIBES

**Relaxed Start.** Leave Dublin and set off through the delightful landscapes of the Emerald Isle. Cross Ireland's longest river, the river Shannon, to reach historic Galway, the City of the Tribes, at the mouth of the Corrib River. Easily one of Ireland's most fun and lively cities, the streets are lined with buskers, the region is know for its famous oysters and the pubs are full of Irish charm.

Join your Travel Director to see the infamous Lynch Memorial and the Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before setting off for his discovery of America. Also see the aged Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy. (B)

#### Harbour Hotel Galway.

# DAY 3 THE CLIFFS OF MOHER, ADARE AND KILLARNEY

**Relaxed Start.** Take the scenic route through the mysterious rocky limestone landscape of the Burren, with its underground caverns, streams and rare flora.

Stop at the Exhibition Centre, situated next to the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher with breathtaking views of the Clare Coast.

Continue past the city of Limerick, stop in quaint Adare and take a relaxed village walk to see its thatched-roof cottages.

In the evening, stay in the centre of the action in lively Killarney. Gateway to the famous Ring of Kerry, Killarney has been welcoming travellers, who appreciate the spectacular scenery of woodlands and lakes, for over 250 years. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 4 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** Explore Killarney with Insight Choice. Choose to join a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, admire incredible scenery on a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and National Park.

Take a leisurely excursion around the magnificent Ring of Kerry with stunning views of mountains and sea. Pass through the small towns of Killorglin, where the famous Puck Fair takes place, and Cahersiveen, birthplace of the great patriot, Daniel O'Connell. Follow the narrow road as it winds along the cliffs to the fishing town of Waterville. Continue through delightful villages like Sneem and cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to Moll's Gap to admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a Farm-to-Table dinner. Enjoy some Irish home cooking at the family-run kitchen of chef John Sheehan. Join John and his wife, Freda, for drinks and a personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world and help preserve this intangible cultural heritage. Then, settle down for a night of great food and drink in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. (B) (DW)

# $\ensuremath{\text{DAY}}\xspace 5$ cobh and blarney castle on the way to cork

Relaxed Start. Drive to the historic port town of Cobh, which was the last port of call for the Titanic. Walk through the Queenstown Story exhibition at the Heritage Centre, which recounts the era of Irish emigration and the life of this once great passenger port. Continue to visit the 15th century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence - once kissed, never forgotten! Continue on to Cork along the spacious Grand Parade and South Mall and see the City Hall and fine Georgian houses en route to your hotel.

## In the evening, raise your glass and revel in rich flavours at a lively Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

#### DAY 6 KILKENNY AND DUBLIN

Drive through prime farmland to the medieval city of Kilkenny, with its majestic castle and river walk. Browse the medieval mile showcasing the hub of Ireland's arts and crafts scene along its narrow lanes. Then, return to Dublin and your hotel, located in the heart of Dublin's leafy south side just minutes from the city centre. The rest of the evening is at your leisure to further explore if you wish. (B)

Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

#### DAY 7 DEPART DUBLIN

Your memorable trip comes to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Dublin airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 10:30. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See Adare's thatched cottages. (Day 3, Adare)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone. (Photo by @Trudyleanne, Day 5, Blarney)

#### Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.





| 2023                          | 2024                        |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   09, 16, 23, 30   | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | MAY 05, 12, 19, 26          |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25   | <b>JUN</b> 02,09,16,23,30   |
| <b>JUL</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| AUG   06, 13, 20, 27          | <b>AUG</b>   04, 11, 18, 25 |
| SEP   03, 10, 17, 24          | SEP   01, 08, 15, 22        |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/ireelegance

A COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

8 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 11 MEALS 14 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Ring of Kerry:** Visit a local seaweed farm striving to protect the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic Irish coasts.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Dublin:** Visit Trinity College, before marvelling at the ancient Book of Kells, created by monks and dating from A.D. 800.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Connemara National Park:** Choose to visit the turreted Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey. Alternatively, taste the unique flavours of Connemara oysters and learn about the farm's sustainability initiatives in an enlightening MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Choose between two experiences in Blarney.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Ashford Castle: Dine on delicious farmto-table fare in a stylish setting at Ashford Castle's iconic George V Dining Room.

Welcome Dinner in Dublin.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

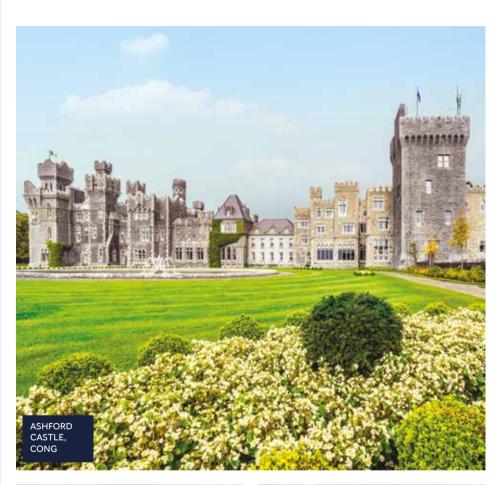
Travel by Ferry across Shannon Estuary • Be escorted by a lone piper across the drawbridge at Ashford Castle.

Visit Cliffs of Moher • Ring of Kerry • Galway Cathedral.

See Guinness Storehouse, Dublin Castle and O'Connell Street in Dublin • Killarney • Cong Abbey.

# **IRISH ELEGANCE**

"Meeting the piper at Ashford Castle is always a hit with guests. You'll walk across a bridge to the castle, behind the lone piper, who is playing just for you. It's a spine-tingling experience!" **– Erica, Travel Director** 





AUTHENTIC DINING, ASHFORD CASTLE



TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

#### DAY 1 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Welcome to Dublin. On arrival at Dublin airport, your airport transfer shuttle service leaves for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00. Meet your Travel Director at 14:00 for an orientation tour with a Local Expert that brings to life Dublin's architectural treasures and history, stretching back more than 1,000 years. Travel along the River Liffey, see Custom House, Guinness Storehouse, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. See the 9th century Book of Kells and enjoy a walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College.

Back at your hotel, join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with drinks and the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over a pleasant evening of dinner and wine. (DW)

Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

# DAY 2 CASHEL AND BLARNEY, HEADING FOR KILLARNEY

Depart Dublin, and pass the famous Curragh Racecourse and green meadows where many of the finest Irish racehorses are bred. Explore Blarney with Insight Choice. Choose to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the magical stone to ensure a lifetime of eloquence. Alternatively, meet a senior gardener for a tour of Blarney Gardens. Head to Killarney, where you may fancy a 'pint of porter.' This town on the lakes is famous for its lively pubs so in the evening why not join in the 'craic'? (B) (DW)

#### Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### DAY 3 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** In the morning, marvel at spectacular mountain and sea views as you travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as the Ring of Kerry. Meet John for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit his family-run seaweed farm to learn about sustainable farming practices that protect the wild Irish Atlantic coasts. (B)

# DAY 4 THE CLIFFS OF MOHER AND ON TO GALWAY

Cross the Shannon Estuary by ferry and enter County Clare. Stop at the Exhibition Centre and enjoy a walk along the Cliffs of Moher, raised approximately 700 feet above the pounding Atlantic waves. Then travel north across the Burren, a suddenly stark and barren landscape, scarred with interesting limestone creases. Journey to Galway, the City of the Tribes, and visit the lovely cathedral.

Take in the scenery from your hotel, which is spectacularly set on the shores of Galway Bay. (B) (DW)

#### Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway.

#### **DAY 5** CAPTIVATING CONNEMARA

Relaxed Start. Embark on a superb exploration of the Connemara National Park and see a wonderland of rivers, lakes and silent hills. Explore Connemara with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the magnificent, turreted Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey. Alternatively join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and visit one of Ireland's oldest oyster farms for a tasting. Learn about their commitment to biodiversity and work promoting sustainable packaging. (B)

#### DAY 6 MAJESTIC ASHFORD CASTLE

Relaxed Start. Sitting on the edge of Lough Corrib and nestled on the border of County Galway and County Mayo, is the delightful Cong. You may recognise much of the town as it was used as the location in the 1952 film, 'The Quiet Man.' With free time to explore this quintessential Irish village, see the statue of the lead characters played by John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, and the ruins of the Medieval Cong Abbey.

Then a short drive down the road leads you to Ashford Castle, the highlight of your travels. As you arrive a lone piper escorts you over the drawbridge. Your exquisite hotel provides a romantic backdrop in superior surroundings, offering both relaxation and comfort. There are many opportunities to explore the vast estate, pamper yourself at the spa, or get to know the hawks and woodland surroundings at the hotel's falconry school. Dining at Ashford Castle ranks among the finest culinary experiences in the world. Creative cooking, locally sourced ingredients and an innovative menu await at your Celebration Dinner. Gentlemen, a jacket is required. (B) (DW)

#### Ashford Castle, Cong.

## DAY 7 ACROSS THE EMERALD ISLE TO DUBLIN

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the morning and perhaps a stroll on the estate? Then cross the midlands to Dublin where the rest of the day is free for independent activities and maybe some last minute shopping. (B)

#### Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

#### **DAY 8** DEPART DUBLIN

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. Departure transfers arrive at Dublin airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 10:30. (B)





INSIGHT CHOICE Visit Kylemore Abbey with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Toneill70, Day 5, Connemara)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore Connemara National Park, a wonderland of lakes and silent hills. (Day 5, Connemara)





| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 19     | <b>APR  </b> 17     |
| MAY   03, 17, 31    | MAY   01, 15, 29    |
| <b>JUN  </b> 14, 28 | <b>JUN  </b> 12, 26 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 12, 26 | <b>JUL  </b> 10, 24 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 09, 23 | AUG   07,21         |
| SEP   06, 20        | <b>SEP</b> 04, 18   |
| <b>OCT</b>  04      | <b>OCT  </b> 02     |
|                     |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/undiscoveredire

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

13 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 20 MEALS 20 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**County Tipperary:** Meet entrepreneur Ailbhe and hear about her passion for sustainable farming. Learn about biodiversity, regenerative agriculture and the secret to crafting the most delicious honey on the island.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Kilkenny:** Visit Kilkenny Castle with a Local Expert. On a guided tour, learn the history of this magnificent castle and that of the powerful family that came to call it home for so many centuries.

Visit Powerscourt Estate and Gardens with a gardener.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Westport:** Choose to join a local foodie for a walk through the town, sampling Ireland's culinary delicacies. Alternatively, travel to Ballycroy National Park for a nature walk through lush countryside with panoramic views of Achill Island and the Nephin Beg mountain range.

Choose between two experiences in Dublin.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

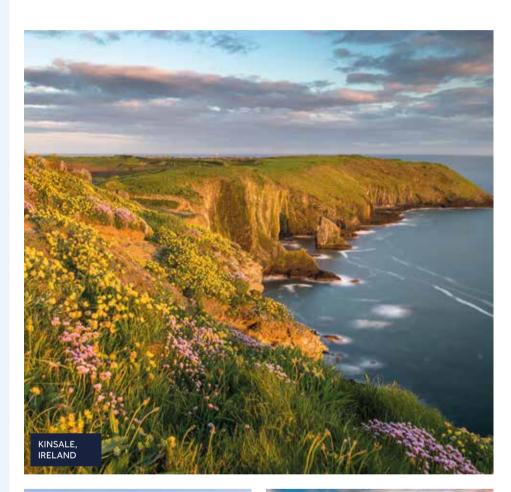
Welcome Dinner in Ennistymon • Restaurant Lunch in Galway • Morning tea at Lissadell Estate • Irish Soda Bread demonstration and Dinner in County Kildare • Pub Dinner with musicians in Kilkenny • Celebration Dinner in Bunratty.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Cliffs of Moher • Glendalough • The Queenstown Story in Cobh • Charles Fort • Blarney Castle.

# UNDISCOVERED IRELAND

"An Irish expression I often teach to guests is 'sin scéal eile,' which means 'that's another story.' **– Áine, Travel Director** 





KILKENNY CASTLE



CLIFFS OF MOHER

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO IRELAND

Transfers to your hotel depart from Shannon airport at 07:00 and 13:00. Relax and settle into your hotel.

At 17:30, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant with the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers. (DW)

Falls Hotel & Spa, Ennistymon.

#### DAY 2 CLIFFS AND DELIGHTS OF GALWAY

Journey to the incredible West Coast and the Cliffs of Moher, for breath-taking views of the Clare shoreline and the Atlantic Ocean. Your next stop is Galway, the City of Tribes. See the St Nicholas Church, the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square.

#### Indulge in a delicious lunch at a local restaurant.

Arrive in quaint and colourful Westport in Co. Mayo, on the Clew Bay. (B) (LW)

The Wyatt Hotel, Westport.

#### DAY 3 EXPLORE WESTPORT

Explore Westport with Insight Choice. Choose to join a Local Expert on a culinary walk through the town, sampling the best sweet and savoury artisan dishes. Alternatively, travel to Ballycroy National Park for a nature walk through lush countryside, with panoramic views of Achill Island and the Nephin Beg mountain range. (B)

#### DAY 4 LISSADELL ESTATE AND ON TO SLIGO

Relaxed Start. Visit the historic Lissadell Estate.

Meet the owners who have lovingly restored the house and gardens to their former glory, and listen to their story as you enjoy tea and scones. Continue to the seaport town of Sligo for an orientation with your Travel Director.

Tonight, enjoy hearty Irish fare as you dine in the home of a local family. (B) (MT) (DW)

#### Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo

**KEY** 

12 travellers.

#### DAY 5 WILDERNESS OF THE NORTHWEST

Experience the beauty and tranquillity of Ireland's northernmost wilderness as you travel along the coast to Donegal. Part of the Wild Atlantic Way, it is one of Ireland's best kept secrets, offering pristine and unspoilt scenery. (B)

#### DAY 6 DUBLIN, THE CAPITAL

Journey across the Emerald Isle to Dublin. See the Custom House and St Patrick's Cathedral on your orientation with your Travel Director. Explore Dublin with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the world famous Guinness Storehouse Brewery. Alternatively, join a Local Expert to visit Trinity College and see the Book of Kells.

Continue to your hotel in Kildare, the luxurious K Club is one of Ireland's top golf and spa resorts firmly anchored in traditional old-school Irish hospitality.

Tonight, enjoy a chef demonstration of making Irish Soda Bread and savour a delicious dinner at the Palmer Club Restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### The K Club, Kildare.

#### DAY 7 A DAY AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Today take advantage of the activities available at your hotel. Stop on the estate grounds and look out for rare birds. Take your chance at fishing, play a round of golf or pamper yourself at the spa. Transfers are also available for guests wishing to further explore Dublin. (B)

#### DAY 8 GARDENS OF IRELAND

Your first stop this morning is at the Powerscourt Estate, in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, where you join a gardener for a walk through one of the world's greatest estates. Your next stop is at Glendalough where a Local Expert takes you on a walk in the 'valley of the two lakes'. This evening, arrive in Kilkenny, where your Travel Director shows you the medieval city. (B)

#### Hotel Kilkenny.

#### **DAY 9** TREASURES OF KILKENNY

**Relaxed Start.** Visit Kilkenny Castle with a Local Expert. On a guided tour learn how the castle was built in 1195 after the Norman Conquest of Ireland and admire its beautifully restored Victorian era rooms.

Tonight, enjoy a pub dinner where local musicians entertain you in true Irish tradition. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 ON THE WAY TO CORK

Travel to 15<sup>th</sup>-century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence! In Cobh, visit the Queenstown Story exhibition, offering a glimpse into the hardships of the early emigrants to British overseas colonies. The ill-fated Titanic also called to the port on its voyage to New York. (B)

Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

#### DAY 11 WALKS IN NATURE

Explore Kinsale, one of the most picturesque towns on the southwest coast of Ireland. Visit Charles Fort, one of the finest surviving examples of a 17th-century star-shaped fort. Overlooking the town and the mouth of the Bandon River, it provides breath-taking views of the county. An easy and peaceful walk takes you to the Old Head of Kinsale, to see the memorial to the crew of RMS Lusitania and the ruins of Downmacpatrick Castle.

Enjoy the freshest seafood this evening on your Sea-to-Table dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 COUNTY TIPPERARY AND ADARE

Travel across County Tipperary to Brookfield Farm and join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Meet Ailbhe Gerrard, a passionate farmer and beekeeper, who shares her secrets to crafting the most delicious honey of the island, crafted sustainably, vital for the preservation of biodiversity in the region.

Continue to Adare, Ireland's prettiest village, for a walk among thatched cottages.

Tonight, toast to your travels and memories made at your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### Bunratty Castle Hotel.

#### DAY 13 FAREWELL IRELAND

Departure transfers arrive at Shannon airport at 05:30 and 09:00. (B)

র্ম Join/Leave Options Donegal Central Ballycroy Hotels + Nights Lissadell National Park Estate ( (1) Scenic 2 Hotels + Nights SLIGO WESTPORT Place Visited 2 (Days 2 & 3) (Davs 4 & 5) Wild Atlantic Way IRELAND Galway Cliffs of Moher COUNTY KILDARE ENNISTYMON (1) BUNRATTY (Day 1) (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ublin (1)(Days 12 & 13) (Days 6 & 7) 삸 Shannon Powerscourt House & Gardens Adare KILKENNY **CHOOSE YOUR** County Glendalough Tipperary 2 **GROUP SIZE** Blarney Killarney National This trip operates CORK Park both classic and small (Davs 10 & 11) group departures. You can also book Cobh Kinsale Charles Fort your own private group with as few as Old Head



| 2023                                    | 2024                                    |
|---|---|
| MAY   01, 06, 08, 13,                   | <b>JAN</b> 15                           |
| 15, 20, 22, 27, 29                      | FEB 12                                  |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 05, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 | <b>MAR</b>   13                         |
| JUL 01,03,10,15,                        | <b>APR  </b> 15, 20, 22, 27, 29         |
| 22,31                                   | MAY 04, 06, 11, 13,                     |
| AUG 07, 12, 19, 21,                     | 18, 20, 25, 27                          |
| 26,28                                   | <b>JUN</b> 01, 03, 08, 10, 15,          |
| <b>SEP</b> 02,04,09,11,16,              | 17,22,29                                |
| 18, 23, 25                              | <b>JUL</b> 01, 08, 13, 20, 29           |
| <b>OCT</b>  30                          | AUG   05, 10, 17, 19,                   |
| <b>NOV</b> 27                           | 24, 26, 31                              |
| <b>DEC</b> 30                           | <b>SEP  </b> 02, 07, 09, 14, 16, 21, 23 |
|   |   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crireland

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

**12 DAYS** 2 COUNTRIES 16 MEALS 19 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### feefoee 4.7/5

GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Killarney: Meet John and Freda, passionate restaurant owners, and learn how their farmto-table concept operates. Enjoy a delicious meal made from fresh ingredients all sourced within a five-mile radius.

Support local wildlife at the Giant's Causeway.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Killarney:** Join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the Killarney National Park.

Visit Trinity College and Book of Kells in Dublin • The Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare • Londonderry with a Local Expert.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Killarney: Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Celebration Dinner in Ballygally.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Blarney Castle • Cliffs of Moher.

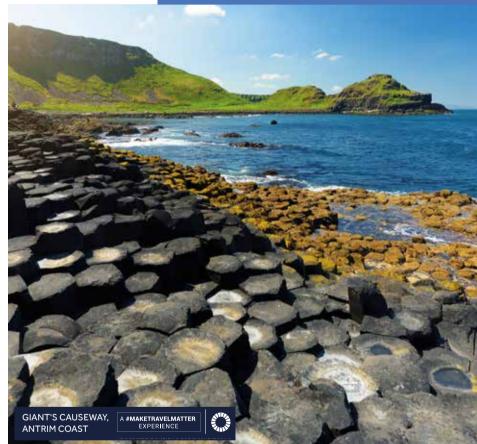
City tour of Belfast with a Local Expert.

See Dublin Castle and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin • Cahir Castle • City Hall and Opera House in Cork • Killarney • Dingle Peninsula • Lynch Memorial, Church of St. Nicholas and Eyre Square in Galway • Ballygally • Carrickfergus Castle.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF IRELAND

"Everyone loves to meet James, our Kilkenny hurler, on this trip. He introduces you to one of our national games with a hands-on experience." – Clodagh, Travel Director







TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN



HA'PENNY BRIDGE, DUBLIN

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO DUBLIN

On arrival at Dublin airport, transfers leave for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner, with the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over a meal with wine. (DW)

#### DAY 2 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

**Relaxed Start.** Become acquainted with Dublin's elegant squares during an orientation of the city. Discover Custom House, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Enjoy entrance to the 9th century Book of Kells and a walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College. (B)

Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

#### DAY 3 A JOURNEY FROM DUBLIN TO CORK

Visit one of the country's main racehorse breeding centres and meet an equine professional. Visit the 100-year-old Japanese Gardens. Travel to the medieval city of Kilkenny to visit the majestic Kilkenny Castle. With a Local Expert, learn how the castle was built in 1195 after the Norman Conquest of Ireland and admire its beautifully restored Victorian era rooms

Continue through Cahir and see its 13th century castle.

In Cork, your Travel Director shows you around the university city, with its vibrant waterfront and grand Georgian parades. (B)

#### Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

# DAY 4 ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS TO KILLARNEY

**Relaxed Start.** Travel to Blarney Castle and kiss the stone to ensure a lifetime of eloquence. Travel across the majestic Derrynasaggart Mountains to the lively town of Killarney. Join John and Freda, your hosts at the 19th Green Guesthouse, and savour the delicious flavours of fresh local cuisine on this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Gather together at a Farm-to-Table dinner, using responsibly sourced ingredients from the local community, and gain personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world. (B) (DW)

#### Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### DAY 5 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Relaxed Start. Explore Killarney with Insight Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horsedrawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore through the National Park. Explore around the magnificent Ring of Kerry. Here, mountains, valleys, lakes and sea blend into a landscape that is breathtaking beyond words. Journey past lush lakelands and around towering cliffs as you appreciate sweeping sea views. (B)

#### DAY 6 AROUND THE DINGLE PENINSULA

**Relaxed Start.** Continue driving with views of wide skies, peaceful towns and coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula - the setting for the film Ryan's Daughter. Drive to dramatic Slea Head at the peninsula's far end, before reaching your hotel on the shores of Dingle harbour. With the evening at leisure, why not treat yourself to a relaxing experience at the hotel's spa? (B)

#### Skellig Hotel, Dingle.

#### DAY 7 THE CLIFFS OF MOHER AND GALWAY

Journey to the Visitor Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher for breathtaking views. Enjoy a delightful drive through the strange, rocky landscape of the Burren to Galway Bay. See the Lynch Memorial, Spanish Arch, Eyre Square and Church of St. Nicholas. (B) (DW)

#### Connemara Coast Hotel (Sea View Rooms), Galway.

#### DAY 8 FREE DAY GALWAY OR ARAN ISLANDS

**Relaxed Start.** Spend a day at leisure to relax and enjoy Galway. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Aran Islands? A genuine highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way. (B)

#### **DAY 9** LONDONDERRY

Cross into Northern Ireland, bound for the ancient walled city of 'Derry.' On arrival, one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan, will fascinate you as he takes you inside the city walls. (B) (DW)

Maldron Hotel Derry, Londonderry.

#### DAY 10 WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production.

Continue to your hotel overlooking Ballygally Bay.

Join us for a finale Celebration Dinner, where oldfashioned hospitality blends with good food and wine. (B) (DW)

Ballygally Castle Hotel, Co. Antrim.

#### DAY 11 THE ANTRIM COAST TO BELFAST

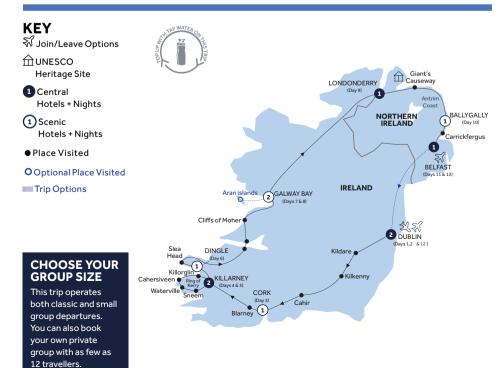
**Relaxed Start.** Follow the Antrim Coast, past the huge Norman castle at Carrickfergus, to arrive in Belfast.

Meet Hilda, your Local Expert, for a passionate city tour including views of the City Hall, Queen's University, the Parliament Building at Stormont and murals in different locations indicating political sentiments of local residents. (B)

Europa Hotel, Belfast.

#### DAY 12 DEPART BELFAST OR DUBLIN

Departure transfers arrive at Belfast George Best City Airport at 08:00 and Belfast International Airport at 08:45. An additional transfer will arrive at Dublin airport at 08:00. (B)







MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® EXPERIENCE Visit the geological masterpiece of Giant's Causeway. (Photo by @Chancfstanley, Day 10, County Antrim)



| 2024  |
|---|
| <b>APR  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25                             |
| <b>MAY  </b> 02, 05, 07, 09, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 28, 30 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 02, 04, 06, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 27, 30     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 04, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30                 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 01, 06, 08, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29     |
| <b>SEP  </b> 01, 03, 05, 10, 12, 15, 19                 |
|   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/irelandscotland

Select departures attend **The Royal** Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

14 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 21 MEALS 26 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup>

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Ardgowan House: Join Sir Ludovic for a tour of his family home, Ardgowan Estate, and savour a traditional Scottish tea made from local ingredients. Hear more about centuries of history on the beautiful grounds. Your visit supports the estate, helping to keep Scottish history alive.

Support local wildlife at the Giant's Causeway.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Londonderry:** There's no better way to experience sightseeing than with one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan, as he takes you on a tour inside the city walls.

Visit Trinity College and Book of Kells in Dublin • Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

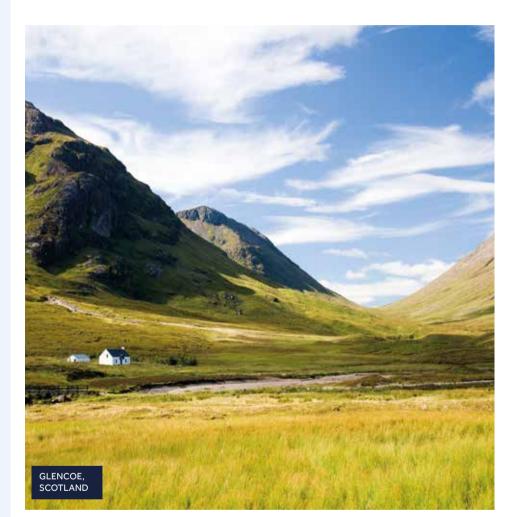
**Killarney:** Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Dublin • Celebration Dinner in Edinburgh • Taste whisky at a local distillery.

# BEST OF IRELAND & SCOTLAND

"Guests always love meeting Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart at his home, as you feel very welcomed into his world and enjoy learning about his family and the estate." – Michael, Travel Director





BLARNEY, IRELAND



SIR LUDOVIC SHAW, ARDGOWAN

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO DUBLIN

On arrival at Dublin airport, your airport transfer service leaves for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:30 for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner. (DW)

Clayton Hotel Charlemont, Dublin.

#### DAY 2 IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Your Travel Director takes you past the Custom House to see the Guinness Brewery, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College and gain an insight into its history. Enjoy entry into its famed library and the 9th century Book of Kells exhibition. (B)

#### DAY 3 KILDARE AND CORK

Witness life behind the scenes of the National Stud Farm, where many legendary racehorses are bred. Then see the finest Japanese gardens in Europe, where the gardens portray the symbolism of life and trace the journey of a soul, designed by master horticulturists, Tassa and Minoru Eida. Travel along Grand Parade to see Cork's City Hall and Opera House. (B)

#### Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

#### DAY 4 BLARNEY CASTLE AND KILLARNEY

**Relaxed Start.** Visit the ruined 15th century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence - once kissed, never forgotten! (B) (DW)

#### Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### DAY 5 RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Relaxed Start. Explore Killarney with Insight Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horsedrawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and through the National Park. Tour the superb seascapes, towering cliffs and spectacular mountains of the Ring of Kerry. Follow the narrow road as it winds through delightful villages like Sneem, to admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View.

Return mid-afternoon for time at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 6 THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Begin the day with a short ferry ride across the Shannon estuary. Enjoy magnificent views of the Clare coast, as you journey to the Visitors' Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher.

Continue on to your hotel, located at the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Join your Travel Director in Galway to see the infamous Lynch Memorial and the Church of St. Nicholas. (B)

#### The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway.

#### DAY 7 GLORIOUS GALWAY TO SLIGO BAY

Relaxed Start. Tour the wild Connemara region, a scenic wonderland of rivers, lakes and silent hills. Drive along the scenic shores of Sligo Bay. (B) (DW)

Clayton Hotel, Sligo.

#### DAY 8 WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS

Cross into Northern Ireland to visit Londonderry, and experience sightseeing with one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan. Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. Continue along the Antrim coast road to your hotel. (B) (DW)

#### Ballygally Castle Hotel, Co. Antrim.

#### DAY 9 HIGH TEA AT ARDGOWAN ESTATE

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to Ardgowan, where Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart welcomes you to his family castle, set on a 10,000-acre coastal estate.

Explore the history of the area and learn the Shaw Stewart family's conservation efforts to protect the land on this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, followed by delightful traditional Scottish tea and scones.

Continue to Glasgow to see the city's grand public buildings. (B) (AT)

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.

#### DAY 10 GLENCOE AND LOCH NESS

A scenic drive takes you along the banks of Loch Lomond and the dramatic landscape of Glencoe, before reaching The Great Glen.

Experience a journey of discovery on a Loch Ness cruise. Soak up the scenery, and intriguing tales of Nessie. (B) (DW)

Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness.

#### DAY 11 A HIGHLANDS EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy an orientation of Inverness, before driving out to the Culloden Moor Visitor Centre, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was finally defeated.

Savour a 'wee dram' during a visit to a local distillery, as you delve into the fascinating world of the single malt. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 ST. ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH

A scenic drive takes you through the Grampian Mountains passing Blair Castle. Cross the Tay to visit St. Andrews and see the Old Course, the home of golf since the 15th century before enjoying free time to explore. Continue to Edinburgh.

In the evening, select departures will attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (B)

#### Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh.

#### DAY 13 SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. Drive along Princes Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18th century New Town with its neoclassical Georgian facades. In the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. Venture up the Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle, home of Mons Meg, the Stone of Destiny and Scotland's Crown Jewels, the Honours of Scotland.

Join your friends for a Celebration Dinner of modern Scottish cuisine, served with wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 FAREWELL EDINBURGH

Transfers arrive at Edinburgh airport at 06:15 and 09:00. (B)  $\,$ 







TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See Holyrood Park. (Photo by @camowilsey, Day 13, Edinburgh)



For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestbritain

Select departures attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

9 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 11 MEALS 21 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Cornwall:** John and Anne welcome you to historic Heskyn Mill for a Farm-to-Table dinner. Savour a delightful meal, with all ingredients responsibly sourced from local producers or carefully foraged from the local area to reduce waste.

Visit the Roman Baths in Bath, providing quality education.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Dartmoor National Park:** Choose to walk amid the rolling valleys of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, set sail on a cruise of Plymouth harbor, where the pilgrims left over 400 years ago.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

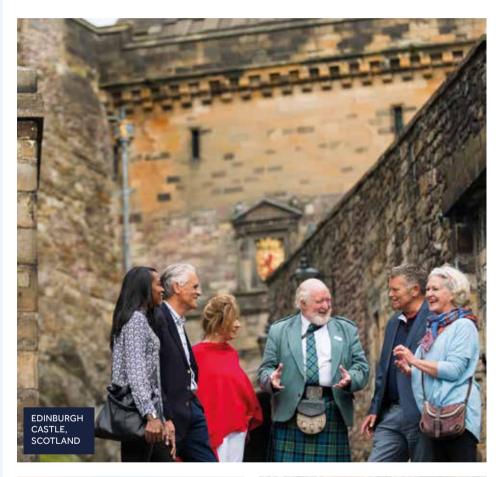
Welcome Dinner in York • Dinner in Windermere.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace • Edinburgh Castle • the Roman Baths • Stonehenge. City tour of Edinburgh with a Local Expert.

# **BEST OF BRITAIN**

"I am passionate about sharing the history of Britain with you. Throughout this trip you will be immersed in the various cultures and traditions across the country." **- Cameron, Travel Director** 





CARDIFF



YORK MINSTER

#### DAY 1 LONDON AND MEDIEVAL YORK

At 07:30, meet your Travel Director at the trip hotel in London to begin your journey north to Stratfordupon-Avon, with its black-and-white, timberframed house. Discover how William Shakespeare and his incredible works continue to shape society today when you visit his birthplace, full of interesting memorabilia and artefacts relating to his life. Continue to historic York to stroll the narrow lanes including the Shambles and view York Minster, England's largest medieval cathedral.

# Later, join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner and the opportunity to mingle over a pleasant evening. (DW)

#### Hilton York.

#### DAY 2 HADRIAN'S WALL TO EDINBURGH

See a part of Hadrian's Wall, once spanning 80 miles from coast to coast, marking the northern frontier of the mighty Roman Empire. Continue past Jedburgh Abbey en route to the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, for your two-night stay in this stunning city. (B)

#### Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh.

#### DAY 3 EDINBURGH SIGHTSEEING

In the morning join a Local Expert to explore the Royal Mile. You will see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of Her Majesty the Queen. Continue past the Sir Walter Scott Monument to the 18th century New Town with its neoclassical Adam facades. Visit Edinburgh Castle, home of the Honours of Scotland, to view Mons Meg, and see the Stone of Destiny. The afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, select departures will attend the spectacular Military Tattoo - a colourful mix of pipes and drums, dance and display, set against the floodlit backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. (B)

#### DAY 4 LOCH LOMOND TO GLASGOW

Drive via historic Bannockburn and Stirling and enjoy the scenery of the Trossachs. Continue along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, before arriving in Glasgow for an orientation of the city with your Travel Director. See the grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral. (B)

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.

#### DAY 5 THE GLORIOUS LAKE DISTRICT

Travel via Gretna Green to the English Lake District, with scenery so beautiful it inspired a host of writers. Learn about the life of William Wordsworth and visit his grave in the picturesque, stone-built village of Grasmere. (B) (DW)

#### Castle Green Hotel, Kendal.

#### DAY 6 THE WELSH MARCHES AND CARDIFF

Stop in ancient Ludlow, one of England's most attractive towns, dominated by its castle, rich in tragic royal history. Why not spend time exploring the traditional open-air market, admiring the local crafts and perhaps sampling the produce? Afterwards, cross into southern Wales and head for the capital of Cardiff for an orientation of the port city, upon the River Taff. See Cardiff Castle and the impressive Principality Stadium. (B)

Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Stroll on The Royal Mile. (Photo by @carolineinsightvacations, Day 4, Edinburgh)

#### DAY 7 GEORGIAN BATH AND DEVON

Cross the Severn Bridge back into England and drive to the Georgian City of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, which serve as a hub of culture and education for the local population. Continue to Glastonbury, steeped in legend and reputed to be the final resting place of King Arthur and the Holy Grail. Continue on to your hotel in the heart of Plymouth. (B)

#### Jurys Inn Plymouth.

#### DAY 8 DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

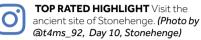
Relaxed Start. Explore Dartmoor with Insight Choice. Choose to join a scenic exploration of Dartmoor National Park. Spend time reconnecting with nature amidst the stunning landscape of towering granite tors, open moorland, beautiful rivers and lush, wooded valleys. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing cruise of Plymouth Harbour and see the Mayflower Steps, Barbican, Royal Citadel and Plymouth Hoe.

Later this evening, savour an unforgettable Celebration Dinner at Heskyn Mill during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Join your Travel Director and newfound friends for the ultimate Farm-to-Table dining experience. Enjoy a mouthwatering meal prepared from organic seasonal produce, freshly picked from the surrounding fields, served with a glass of wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 9 STONEHENGE AND LONDON

Travel across Salisbury Plain to visit the pre-historic and mysterious Stonehenge, where the strange and awe-inspiring monoliths are reputed to be up to 5,000 years old. Your journey concludes upon arrival at the hotel in London. (B)







#### KEY

- 1 Central Hotels + Nights
- 1 Scenic Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS**

By our guests and Travel Directors



O @CONCEPT\_BY\_KYM TOLEDO, SPAIN



GRANILLEN GRANADA, SPAIN



(a\_MAGGIEMAE SEVILLE, SPAIN



(a) SHARON\_INSTA MARRAKESH, MOROCCO



(a\_MAGGIEMAE ALHAMBRA, SPAIN



(C) @\_MAGGIEMAE VALENCIA, SPAIN



(a)JEFE\_JEFFEY



ONINIIIIII\_MD
 MEDINA D'ESSAOUIRA,
 MOROCCO



# Spain, Portugal Alorocco



Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to watch a video about Spain. Best of Spain & Portugal 15 DAYS | PAGE 60

Treasures of Spain, Portugal & Morocco 17 DAYS | PAGE 63

Grand Spain & Portugal 18 DAYS | PAGE 66

Spanish Heritage 18 DAYS | PAGE 68

Highlights of Spain 9 DAYS | PAGE 70

Best of Morocco 10 DAYS | PAGE 72

Northern Spain 11 DAYS | PAGE 74



Easy Pace Spain 10 DAYS | PAGE 76

Country Roads of Portugal 11 DAYS | PAGE 78

Amazing Spain & Portugal 9 DAYS | PAGE 80



For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/bestspain** 

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

**15 DAYS** 3 COUNTRIES 21 MEALS 22 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students, learn some basic flamenco steps, and watch them perform an emotional show.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Granada:** Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens with a Local Expert. Visit the Prado Museum with an art historian.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seville:** Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

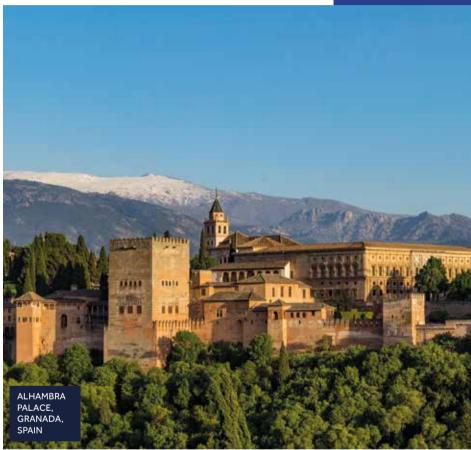
Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Paella cooking demonstration dinner in Valencia • Lunch in Sant Sadurni d'Anoia • Celebration Dinner in Barcelona.

Taste wine in Porto • Olive oil in Alfarnatejo • Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon • Cava wine in Sant Sadurin d'Anoia.

# BEST OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

"A highlight for guests is often meeting a group of ladies in a tiny Andalusian village. They cook typical local dishes for you and treat you like kings and queens." **– Denise, Travel Director** 

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND





PARK GÜELL, BARCELONA (OPTIONAL)



BARBARY APES, GIBRALTAR

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADRID

Your transfer will depart Madrid airport at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 or 16:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over an evening of delicious food and wine. (DW)

#### Barcelo Emperatriz/NH Collection Madrid Suecia/Barcelo Torre De Madrid.

#### DAY 2 MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Guided by your Local Expert, visit the Spanish capital's most historic neighborhoods. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter, discovering the origins of the city.

Enjoy a special visit to the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. (B)

Barcelo Emperatriz/NH Collection Madrid Suecia.

#### DAY 3 SEGOVIA AND GOLDEN SALAMANCA

Travel to the fortified city of Segovia. Walk through the medieval streets with a Local Expert and see the magnificent Alcazar fortress, before continuing onto the historic aqueduct.

Journey west, overlooking the ancient walls of Ávila, en route to Salamanca. During your guided sightseeing tour, admire the golden stone buildings the city is famous for, including the arcaded Plaza Mayor, the honey-coloured cathedral and the 16th century university buildings. (B)

#### Hotel Alameda Palace, Salamanca.

#### DAY 4 PORTO, GRANDE DAME ON THE DOURO

Cross the Portuguese border to reach Porto. Situated on the River Douro, the city is celebrated internationally as the capital of Port wine.

#### Visit the Vila Nova de Gaia wine stores and walk along corridors of casks. Get to know your tawnys and vintages during a tasting.

Continue your exploration of the city, admiring the multi-coloured houses, churches adorned with glazed tiles and iconic bridges (or 'Eiffel Towers on end' according to one Frenchman). (B) (DW)

#### NH Collection Porto Batalha/Infante Sagres, Porto.

**KEY** 

₩UNESCO

1 Central

(1) Scenic

Place Visited

Trip Options

Heritage Site

∛ Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

**O**Optional Place Visited

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

both classic and small

This trip operates

group departures.

You can also book

your own private

12 travellers.

group with as few as

# DAY 5 HOLY FÁTIMA, ANCIENT ÓBIDOS AND LISBON

Head south for a visit to miraculous Fátima. See the Basilica or visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, which commemorates the apparition of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917. Journey to the fortified town of Óbidos and walk

inside its walls, exploring the narrow, medieval streets where houses are covered with flowers. Your travels continue to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. (B)

#### Dom Pedro Lisboa/Corinthia Hotel Lisbon.

# DAY 6 LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES

**Relaxed Start.** Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city. Visit the Belém Quarter, from where sailing ships once set forth to discover faraway lands.

#### Enjoy a taste of the famous Pastéis de Belém from a traditional patisserie that has managed to hold on to the secret recipe of Portugal's finest pastry for almost 200 years.

View the modern Monument to the Discoveries and the historic Belém Tower. This fortress was originally set in the middle of the river, but is now left high and dry on the riverbank. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Jerónimos Church with its beautiful Manueline architecture. With the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Portuguese Riviera? It is often visited by surfers, royalty and, on occasion, James Bond. (B)

#### DAY 7 SEVILLE, THE CITY OF CARMEN

Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the narrow lanes of the Santa Cruz Quarter. Alternatively, join a scenic drive around the city and enjoy panoramic views. (B)

#### NH Collection Sevilla, Seville.





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT A chance to take a picture of Alcazar of Segovia from a beautiful viewpoint. (Photo by @DomNemer, Day 3, Segovia)



INSIGHT CHOICE Soak up Seville's traditional atmosphere on your walking tour with Insight Choice. (Photo by @Patrick\_davis, Day 8, Seville)

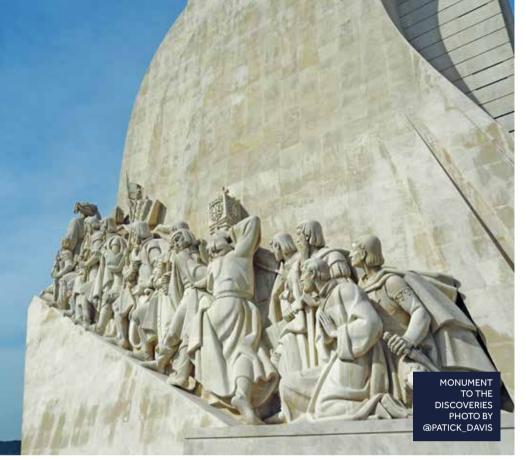


O Pre bre Day

AUTHENTIC DINING Taste freshly pressed olive oils with locally made farmer bread. (Photo by @Taniainsightvacations, Day 11, Alfarnatejo)







# DAY 8 FREE TIME AND FLAMENCO IN SEVILLE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a relaxed start and a morning to unwind, shop or continue exploring this fascinating city at your own pace. Our suggestion is to join an Optional Experience to the ancient city of Córdoba, where you will visit the magnificent Mezquita and see the old Jewish Quarter. Later this afternoon, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Their mission is to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson. (B)

## DAY 9 HEAD FOR GIBRALTAR, MIJAS AND THE COSTA DEL SOL

Head south to Gibraltar, part of mainland Spain yet an overseas territory under British control since 1704.

With your Local Expert, visit the Rock of Gibraltar and St. Michael's Cave. See the Barbary Apes, legendary guardians of the colony.

Relax as you travel the scenic route along the Costa del Sol through high end resorts where the rich and famous holiday. Your journey continues through the green hills to the white-washed village of Mijas. Stroll through the old streets and gardens, taking in the views of the coast. (B) (DW)

#### Meliá Costa del Sol, Torremolinos.

#### DAY 10 AT LEISURE ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Relaxed Start. Enjoy the day at leisure on the sun-drenched Costa del Sol. Relax by the blue Mediterranean waters, stroll along the promenade, savour the specialties in the local restaurants or consider exploring Málaga, the birth city of Picasso. (B)

## DAY 11 DINING WITH LOCALS AND THE ALHAMBRA

Relaxed Start. Continue to Alfarnatejo, a quiet whitewashed village, with a population of less than 500 people, surrounded by stunning mountainous landscape. Walk the town centre to see the 18th century Iglesia del Santo Cristo de Cabrilla. Travel to the oldest olive grove in the region and stop at the rural mill-factory to taste a selection of different oils, paired with locally made farmer bread.

#### In small groups, you are invited into the home of a local family to join them for a delicious Highlight Lunch made of fresh, local produce with flavours typical of the region.

Continue to Granada to visit the magnificent Alhambra Palace with your Local Expert. Built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century, it is a wonder of beautiful gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. (B) (LW)

Vincci Albayzín, Granada.

#### DAY 12 ON TO VALENCIA

Journey to Valencia. Pass through the Old City to see its ancient gates, and the City of Arts and Sciences.

In your free time perhaps take a stroll to the Cathedral and El Miguelete? Alternatively sit back with a drink and watch the Valencians go about their day.

Valencia is home to one of the world's greatest dishes, paella. Meet the chef of a local family-run restaurant in the heart of the Old City and learn how to make this local specialty during a Cooking Demonstration. Later, indulge in the delicious flavours of this classic dish at your Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

Barceló Valencia.

#### DAY 13 ALONG THE COAST TO PEÑÍSCOLA AND ON TO BARCELONA

Follow the coast to Peñíscola to view the sealapped castle used in the film 'El Cid'.

At Cava Bodegas in Sant Sadurni d'Anoia, enjoy a delicious light lunch and savour a tasting as you learn the sparkling secrets of Spanish bubbly. Continue along the coast to reach Barcelona. (B) (LW)

Meliá Barcelona Sarrià, Barcelona.

#### DAY 14 BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING

**Relaxed Start.** A Local Expert joins you for a drive along the Passeig de Gràcia, adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps and some of the most flamboyant Modernist buildings. Continue through the Eixample district to visit Gaudi's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. See the central nave with its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and the beautiful rainbows flooding in through the intricate stained-glass windows. At a local restaurant, join your fellow travellers to toast to newfound friends and a wonderful journey, enjoying a Celebration Dinner with wine.(B) (DW)

#### DAY 15 DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport at 07:00, 09:00 or 11:00. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening.(B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See the modern City of Arts and Sciences. (Photo by @Insight\_Sabrina, Day 12, Valencia)



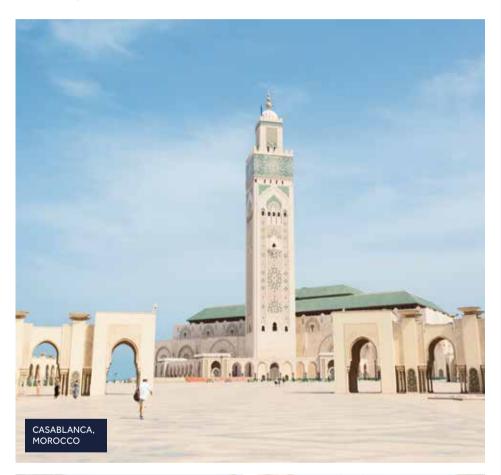


TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore Sagrada Família with your Local Expert (Photo by @sueinsight, Day 14, Barcelona)

# TREASURES OF SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO

"This trip is enjoyable from an historical and cultural point of view. It traces the Moorish dominance of Iberia for nearly 800 years. Guests get to see, feel, taste and experience this influence."

#### - Simon, Travel Director





ALHAMBRA PALACE, GRANADA



LISBON

#### **TRIP START DATES**

| 2023                        | 2024                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| MAR   18, 25                | MAR   16, 23              |
| <b>APR</b> 15, 22, 29       | <b>APR  </b> 13, 20, 27   |
| MAY 06, 13, 20, 27          | MAY 04, 11, 18, 25        |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24 | JUN 01,08,15,22,29        |
| JUL   01, 08, 15, 22, 29    | JUL 06, 13, 20, 27        |
| <b>AUG</b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | AUG 03, 10, 17, 24, 31    |
| SEP 02,09,16,23,30          | SEP 07, 14, 21, 28        |
| <b>OCT</b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>OCT</b> 05, 12, 19, 26 |
| NOV   11                    | <b>NOV  </b> 09           |
|                             |                           |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/treasuresspain

#### © REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

17 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 23 MEALS 19 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e●</sup> 4.3<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW ★★★★☆

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a benefi ciary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students, learn some basic flamenco steps, and watch them perform an emotional show.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Madrid:** Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings, plus an impressive international collection, as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

Visit Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seville:** Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Celebration Dinner in Madrid.

Taste Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon • Olive oil in Alfarnatejo.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel across the Straits of Gibraltar between Europe and Africa. Visit Chapel of the Apparitions in Fátima • Jerónimos Monastery • Seville Cathedral • Bahia Palace • Fes Medina.

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADRID

Your transfer will depart Madrid airport at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 or 16:00.

#### Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over an evening of delicious food and wine. (DW)

Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid.

# DAY 2 PRADO MUSEUM AND ON TO GOLDEN SALAMANCA

With your Local Expert, travel along the main historical areas of the capital of Spain, known as Madrid of the Bourbons. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter, to discover the origins of the city.

Join an art historian to explore the Prado Museum, a magnificent palace housing works by Velázquez, Goya, Rubens and other masters. Journey past the walls of Ávila en route to Salamanca, with its honey-coloured cathedral and

16th-century university buildings. (B)

#### Hotel Alameda Palace, Salamanca.

#### DAY 3 HOLY FÁTIMA AND LISBON

**Relaxed Start.** Cross the Portuguese frontier and skirt the Estrela Mountains en route to Fátima, Portugal's most renowned religious site. Join the pilgrims flocking into the great basilica, commemorating the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917. In the heart of the Shrine of Fatima is The Chapel of Apparitions, marking the exact location of her first appearance. Other sacred sites include the Museu





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Admire the ancient walls of Ávila. (Photo by @ianillen, Day 2, Ávila)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém. (Photo by @ianillen, Day 4, Lisbon)

de Arte Sacra e Etnologia, exhibiting religious artifacts and the modern church of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

Your travels continue to Lisbon. (B)

#### Dom Pedro Lisboa, Lisbon.

## DAY 4 LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES

**Relaxed Start.** Your guided sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and across the tree-shaded squares. Pass beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paço.

#### Visit the Belém Quarter and enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same secret recipe for almost 200 years.

Visit Jerónimos Monastery and see the ancient Belém Tower erected to protect it. Marvel at the Monument to the Discoveries. This afternoon is free to explore further as you wish or perhaps decide to visit the Portuguese Riviera? (B)

#### DAY 5 TO SEVILLE, THE CITY OF CARMEN

Visit Seville's Cathedral, the final resting place of Christopher Colombus.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter and see La Giralda, the former minaret of the Great Mosque, which is now the bell tower of the cathedral. Alternatively, join a scenic drive around the city and enjoy panoramic views. (B)

#### Catalonia Giralda Hotel, Seville.

# DAY 6 FREE TIME AND FLAMENCO IN SEVILLE

Relaxed Start. This morning is yours to completely relax or continue exploring this fascinating city. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Córdoba and visit the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it? Later this afternoon, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Their mission is to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson. (B)

#### DAY 7 THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR TO FES

Set sail across the Strait of Gibraltar to reach Morocco, a historic land of deep-rooted tradition and compelling cultural character. (B) (DW)

#### Marriott Jnan Palace, Fes.

#### DAY 8 EXPLORE FES

**Relaxed Start.** Your Local Expert will guide you through the ancient Medina, teeming with hidden courtyards, beautiful mosques and local workshops. Sensorial delights await around every corner as you take in the historic grandeur of this walled city. Walk through the souks and pass one of the world's oldest universities. Learn about the ancient craft of handwoven carpets, a tradition developed in this region over thousands of years. Gain insight into the exceptional skill and artistic symbolism applied to make each carpet unique. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 9 ON THE ROAD TO MARRAKESH

During today's journey, see traditional mud-walled villages set against the vast arid plains. Glimpse the Atlas Mountains as you approach Marrakesh, a bustling hub of culture and trade. (B)

Kenzi Rose Garden, Marrakesh.



#### DAY 10 EXPLORE MARRAKESH

Join a Local Expert to explore the Medina, the historic heart of the city. See the Koutoubia Mosque, its minaret dominating the Marrakesh skyline with golden brickwork. Visit the intricatelydecorated Palais Bahia, a 19th-century mosaicladen masterpiece built to be the greatest palace of its day. Experience the city's captivating charm during time at leisure. Perhaps try your hand at haggling in the souks on Jemaa-el-Fnaa Square or visit one of the acclaimed museums. (B)

#### DAY 11 PLAY IT AGAIN SAM IN CASABLANCA

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to the west coast of Africa to reach Casablanca. Did Humphrey Bogart really did say "Play it again, Sam"? Your Local Expert will reveal the truth to this and other fascinating elements of this storied city. See the impressive Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the country. For those who came to Casablanca for the waters, the Corniche, a chic seaside strip, welcomes you with its trendy restaurants and cafes. (B) (D)

#### Grand Mogador City Centre, Casablanca.

#### DAY 12 RABAT AND TANGIER

**Relaxed Start.** Travel north to Rabat to see the intricately-decorated Royal Palace and Hassan Tower with your Local Expert.

Your journey continues to Morocco's port of Tangier, overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean. After dinner, enjoy an evening at leisure to relax in the comfortable surroundings of your hotel as the sun sets or take a stroll along Avenue d'Espagne on the Bay of Tangier. (B) (D)

Grand Hotel Villa de France, Tangier.







#### DAY 13 ON TO THE COSTA DEL SOL

Cross the water to Spain and continue on to Gibraltar, an overseas territory under British control since 1704. Meet your Local Expert for a guided tour of the Rock of Gibraltar, St. Michael's Cave and see the Barbary Apes, legendary guardians of the colony. Your travels continue through Andalucía and on to the Costa del Sol, famous for its beaches. (B)

Meliá Costa del Sol, Torremolinos.

#### DAY 14 AT LEISURE ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy the day at leisure on the sun-drenched Costa del Sol. Relax by the blue Mediterranean waters, stroll along the promenade, savour the specialties in the local restaurants, or consider exploring Malaga, the birth city of Picasso. (B)

# DAY 15 DINING WITH LOCALS AND THE ALHAMBRA PALACE

Continue to Alfarnatejo, a quiet white washed village with a population of just 500 people, surrounded by stunning mountainous landscape. Walk the town centre to see the 18th century Iglesia del Santo Cristo de Cabrilla. Travel to the oldest olive grove in the region and

stop at the rural mill-factory of Alfarnatejo to taste a selection of different oils with locally made farmer bread.

#### In small groups, you are invited into the home of a local family to join them for a delicious Highlight Lunch made with fresh, local produce that showcases the flavours typical of the region.

Continue to Granada, where overlooking the town stands one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built, the Alhambra. Led by your Local Expert, explore this exquisite palace built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century - a fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Stroll through the elegant, exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the summer residence of the Spanish royals. (B) (LW)

#### Gran Hotel Luna de Granada.

# DAY 16 TO MADRID IN SEARCH OF DON QUIXOTE

Your journey continues to the north, through countryside immortalized by Cervantes fictional hero, Don Quixote.

On return to Madrid, toast your travels with your newfound friends during a lively Celebration Dinner of delicious food and wine at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid.

#### DAY 17 FAREWELL MADRID

After breakfast, transfers arrive at Madrid airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Enjoy the scenery of the Alhambra Palace. (Photo by @sharon\_insta, Day 15, Granada)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

# CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



∛ Join/Leave Options

● Place Visited

O Optional Place Visited

🛱 Cruise

**KEY** 

Heritage Site

| 2023                    | 2024                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 15, 22, 29 | <b>APR  </b> 13, 20, 27 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 13, 27     | MAY   11, 25            |
| <b>JUN  </b> 10, 24     | <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 08, 22     | <b>JUL  </b> 06, 20     |
| <b>AUG  </b> 05, 19     | AUG   03, 17            |
| <b>SEP  </b> 02, 16     | SEP   14, 28            |
| <b>OCT  </b> 14         | <b>OCT  </b> 12         |
|                         |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/grandspain

This tour is a combination of **Amazing Spain & Portugal** and **Northern Spain**.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
 ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED
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 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
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18 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 23 MEALS 28 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoes 4.6<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students of the foundation, learn some basic flamenco steps, and then feel the passion as they perform an emotional show.

#### INSIGHT EXPERIENCES

**Granada:** Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens. While others wait in line, you'll be exploring accompanied by a Local Expert, keen to share insights into this Moorish landmark.

Visit a Damascene workshop in Toledo • Prado Museum with a local art historian in Madrid.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Seville: Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive around the city.

Choose between two experiences in Santiago de Compostela.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Celebration Dinner in Barcelona.

Taste Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon • Wine in Rueda.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Seville Cathedral • Jerónimos Monastery • Fátima basilica • Santo Tomé church • Picos de Europa National Park • Holy Cave of Covadonga • Sagrada Família.

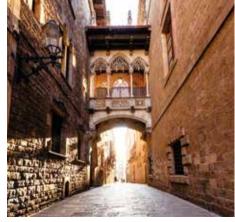
# GRAND SPAIN & PORTUGAL

"You can't miss the evening horse and carriage ride through Seville – the bustling squares, illuminated buildings and aroma of orange blossoms is as traditional as a gondola ride in Venice." – Dom, Travel Director





PAMPLONA



BARCELONA

#### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO MADRID

Your airport transfer departs Madrid airport for your hotel at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 or 16:00. While in Madrid, explore the elegant boulevards, expansive parks and varied architectural styles.

At 18:30, join your Travel Director for your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid.

#### DAY 2 TOLEDO AND ON TO GRANADA

Meet a master Damascene artisan for insights into this unique craft.

Explore Toledo led by your Local Expert. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé, housing El Greco's 'The Burial of the Count of Orgaz.' (B) (DW)

#### Vincci Albavzín, Granada,

#### DAY 3 THE ALHAMBRA PALACE

Explore the incredible Alhambra Palace and exotic water gardens of the Generalife, with your Local Expert

Continue on to Seville and visit the Cathedral with a Local Expert.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to walk through the old Jewish guarter. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive around the city. (B)

Ayre Hotel Sevilla, Seville.

#### DAY 4 FREE TIME IN SEVILLE AND FLAMENCO

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a free day to explore as you wish

Visit Cristina Heeren Foundation, a private flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson, before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance. (B)

#### DAY 5 ÉVORA AND ONTO LISBON

Relaxed Start. Continue to the lively university town of Évora.

Visit the fascinating Capela dos Ossos, a chapel decorated with human bones, before making your way to Lisbon. (B)

#### Turim Saldanha Hotel, Lisbon.

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#### DAY 6 LISBON

Relaxed Start. Visit the Belém Quarter and the Jeronimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a Local Expert and enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same, secret recipe for almost 200 years. View the Monument to the Discoveries and the more ancient Belém Tower. (B)

#### DAY 7 HOLY FÁTIMA AND SALAMANCA

In Fátima, visit the famed basilica

Cross the border, returning to Spain and continue to Salamanca. Across the River Tormes, see the Puente Romano with 15 of its 26 arches dating from the time of the ancient Romans. (B)

#### Hotel Alameda Palace, Salamanca.

#### DAY 8 ÁVILA AND MADRID

Travel to Ávila to walk within the ancient city. Return to Madrid to explore more of the capital with your Local Expert.

At a local restaurant, join your newfound friends for a Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

Melia Madrid Serrano/NH Collection Madrid Suecia.

#### **DAY 9** MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Visit the Prado Museum with an art historian. housing works by Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and others. (B)

#### DAY 10 THROUGH RUEDA TO SANTIAGO

Learn how wines are produced in Rueda and sample the delights of the Verdejo grape. Travel on to Santiago de Compostela. (B) (DW)

NH Collection Santiago de Compostela.

#### DAY 11 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Relaxed Start. Explore Santiago de Compostela with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a scenic walk on the Way of St. James. Alternatively, join a city tour with a Local Expert. (B)

#### DAY 12 THE COSTA VERDE TO OVIEDO

Relaxed Start. Travel along the Green Coast of Asturias.

In Gijón, meet Flor, who will invite you to join her for lunch in her home.

In Oviedo, visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour in Plaza Alfonso II with a Local Expert. (B) (LW)

Barceló Oviedo Cervantes.

#### DAY 13 PICTURESQUE SANTILLANA DEL MAR AND ON TO SANTANDER

Visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo. See the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís and head into Picos de Europa, a national park boasting spectacular scenery. Enjoy views of the Costa de Cantabria while

travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Continue to Santander. (B)

#### Eurostars Hotel Real, Santander.

#### DAY 14 BILBAO AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

Relaxed Start. Admire the architecture of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Continue to San Sebastián and join your Local Expert for a walk through the Old Quarter, admiring the views from up high at Monte Iqueldo. (B)

Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

#### **DAY 15** THE CANTABRIAN COAST

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk or enjoy several sporting activities on its large sandy beach. (B)

#### DAY 16 PAMPLONA AND ON TO BARCELONA

Journey to the famed town of Pamplona where you are free to explore. Continue to Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia, a land that retains its own distinctive language, culture and traditions. (B)

Kimpton Vividora Hotel, Barcelona.

#### DAY 17 BARCELONA, CITY OF GAUDÍ

A Local Expert joins you for a drive along the Passeig de Gràcia, adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps and some of the most flamboyant Modernist buildings. Continue through the Eixample district to visit Gaudi's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família.

In the evening, join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant. Raise your glass and toast to your travels during your delightful Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 18 DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport. at 07:00, 09:00 or 11:00. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening.(B)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



| 2023                        | 2024                            |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 01,08,22,27    | <b>APR  </b> 06, 20, 25         |
| <b>MAY  </b> 04,06,11,18,20 | <b>MAY  </b> 02,04,09,16,18     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 17         | <b>JUN  </b> 01, 15, 29         |
| <b>JUL  </b> 01, 15, 29     | <b>JUL  </b> 13, 27             |
| AUG   12, 26, 31            | <b>AUG  </b> 10, 24, 29         |
| <b>SEP  </b> 07,09,14,21,23 | <b>SEP</b>   05, 07, 12, 19, 21 |
| <b>ОСТ  </b> 07             | <b>ОСТ  </b> 05                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/spanishheritage

This tour is a combination of **Highlights of Spain** and **Northern Spain**.

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

18 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 24 MEALS 24 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e9</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup>

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation promotes the conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Learn some basic flamenco steps and watch the students perform an emotional show.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Madrid:** Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings, plus an impressive international collection, as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

Visit Alhambra Palace and the Generalife gardens with a Local Expert in Granada.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seville:** Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Barcelona • Paella cooking demonstration and Highlight Dinner in Valencia • Highlight Dinner in Madrid • Dine with a local in Gijon • Celebration dinner in Barcelona. Taste wine in Rueda.

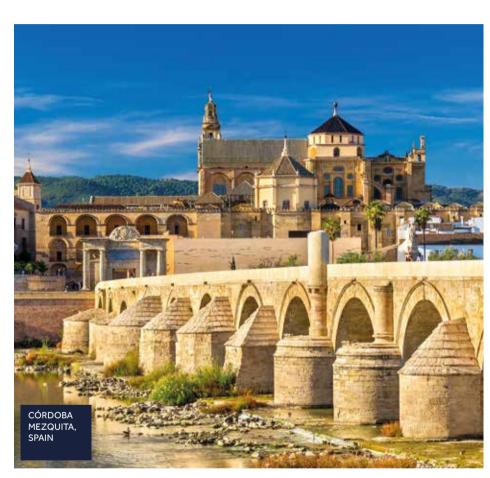
#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Sagrada Família • Córdoba's Mezquita • Picos de Europa National Park and the holy cave of Covadonga • Monte Iguelo in San Sebastián.

City tours of Barcelona, Seville, Córdoba, Oviedo and San Sebastián, all with Local Experts.

# SPANISH HERITAGE

"I love to teach guests the first ever basque phrase I learnt from my father at the age of six, 'Torri ona gausa ba, exambiardia.' This translates as 'come here, I want to tell you something'." – Lola, Travel Director





TRADITIONAL PAELLA



GIJON

Call an Insight Specialist on 0800 568769 or contact your preferred travel advisor

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BARCELONA

Airport transfers depart from Barcelona airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:00.

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers at 18:00 for your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

NH Collection Constanza / Hilton Barcelona.

#### DAY 2 BARCELONA, THE CITY OF GAUDÍ

Relaxed Start. A Local Expertijoins you for a drive along the Passeig de Gràcia, adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps and some of the most flamboyant Modernist buildings. Continue through the Eixample district to visit Gaudi's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. (B)

#### DAY 3 ALONG THE COAST TO VALENCIA

Relaxed Start. Stop at Peñíscola to see the sealapped castle

Continue to Valencia.

Meet the chef of a local family-run restaurant in the heart of the Old City and learn how to make this local specialty during a Cooking Demonstration. Later, indulge in the delicious flavours of this classic dish with a glass of sangria at your Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

Barceló Valencia.

#### **DAY 4** EXQUISITE GRANADA AND ALHAMBRA

Travel toward Andalucía, passing the castle at Lorca and troglodyte dwellings. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore as you wish. Overlooking Granada stands one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built, the Alhambra. Led by your Local Expert. explore this exquisite 13th century palace and stroll through the elegant exotic gardens of the Generalife. (B) (DW)

#### Gran Hotel Luna de Granada.

#### DAY 5 A SCENIC DRIVE TO SEVILLE

Your journey continues to Seville.(B)

Meliá Sevilla, Seville.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

1 Central

Place Visited

Trip Options

This trip operates

group departures.

You can also book

your own private

12 travellers.

#### DAY 6 SEVILLE, THE CITY OF CARMEN

Relaxed Start. Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the old Jewish Quarter. Alternatively, enjoy a drive around the city with panoramic views.

Visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a private flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Enjoy a dance lesson, before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance. (B)

#### DAY 7 MOORISH CÓRDOBA

In Córdoba, meet a local historian and visit the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th century mosque with a Christian cathedral built within. (B)

#### Meliá Madrid Princesa/Meliá Serrano Madrid.

#### **DAY 8** WONDERFUL MADRID

Guided by your Local Expert, visit the Spanish capital's most historic neighborhoods. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter, discovering the origins of the city. Enjoy a special visit to the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Join your newfound friends at a local restaurant for a Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 9** DISCOVER MADRID

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a relaxed start and a full day at leisure to explore Spain's capital. Consider an optional experience to the fortified city of Segovia. (B)

#### DAY 10 THROUGH RUEDA TO SANTIAGO

Learn how wines are produced in Rueda and sample the delights of the Verdejo grape during a wine tasting session.

Travel on to Santiago de Compostela. (B) (DW)

NH Collection Santiago de Compostela.

#### DAY 11 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Relaxed Start. Explore Santiago de Compostela with Insight Choice. Choose to join a city tour with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a scenic walk on the Way of St. James. (B)

#### DAY 12 THE COSTA VERDE TO OVIEDO

Relaxed Start. Travel along the Green Coast of Asturias

#### In Gijón, meet Flor, who will invite you to join her for lunch in her home.

In Oviedo, visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour in Plaza Alfonso II with a Local Expert. (B) (LW)

#### Barceló Oviedo Cervantes.

#### **DAY 13 SANTANDER**

Head into Picos de Europa to visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga.

Enjoy views of the Costa de Cantabria while travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. (B)

#### Eurostars Hotel Real. Santander.

#### DAY 14 BILBAO AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

Relaxed Start. Admire the architecture of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Continue to San Sebastián and admire its beauty during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Explore the secrets of the harbour area and uncover the forgotten Basque maritime cultural heritage. (B)

#### Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

#### **DAY 15** THE CANTABRIAN COAST

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk or enjoy several sporting activities on its large sandy beach. (B)

#### DAY 16 PAMPLONA AND ON TO BARCELONA

Journey to Pamplona and Barcelona. (B) Hotel Hesperia Barcelona Presidente.

#### DAY 17 BARCELONA AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day completely at leisure.

In the evening, join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant for your delightful Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 18 DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport at 07:00, 09:00 or 11:00. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening. (B)





| <b>2023</b><br><b>APR  </b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 27, 29   | 2024<br>MAR<br>APR             |
|--|--------------------------------|
| MAY   04, 06, 11, 13,<br>18, 20, 25, 27<br>JUN   01, 03, 08, 10,<br>15, 17, 22, 24<br>JUL   01, 08, 15, 22, 29<br>AUG   05, 12, 19, 26, 31 | MAY<br>JUN<br>29<br>JUL<br>AUG |
| SEP   02, 07, 09, 14,<br>16, 21, 23, 30<br>OCT   07, 14, 21, 28<br>NOV   11, 18<br>DEC   20, 27  | SEP <br>OCT                    |

MAR | 02, 16, 30 APR | 06, 13, 20, 27 MAY | 04, 11, 18, 25 JUN | 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 JUL | 06, 13, 20, 27 AUG | 03, 10, 17, 24, 31

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 9,14,
 SEP [07, 14, 21, 28]

 OCT [05, 12, 19, 26]

 1,28

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/highlightsspain

Why not combine this trip with **Northern Spain** to fully experience Spain?

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

9 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 12 MEALS 12 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e●</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> guest review ★★★★☆

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students, learn some basic flamenco steps, and watch them perform an emotional show.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Madrid:** Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings, plus an impressive international collection, as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

Visit Alhambra Palace and the Generalife gardens with a Local Expert in Granada.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seville:** Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

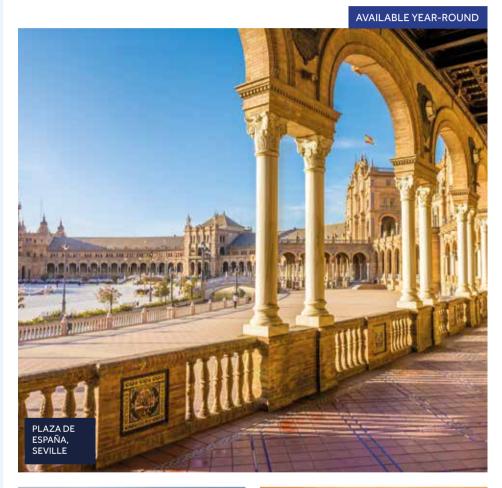
Welcome Dinner in Barcelona • Paella cooking demonstration in Valencia • Celebration Dinner in Madrid.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Sagrada Família • Seville Cathedral • Córdoba's Mezquita.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF SPAIN

"You'll love meeting Lorenzo, a chef in Valencia; we join him for a unique cooking demonstration of an authentic paella. He is a really funny gentleman, who is very passionate about this traditional dish." – Philippe, Travel Director





ALHAMBRA PALACE, GRANADA



FLAMENCO DANCER, SEVILLE

A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BARCELONA

Airport transfers depart from Barcelona airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:00.

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers at 18:00 for your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

NH Collection Constanza/Hilton Barcelona.

#### DAY 2 BARCELONA, THE CITY OF GAUDÍ

**Relaxed Start.** With your Local Expert, drive along the Passeig de Gràcia.

Travel through the Eixample district to visit the Sagrada Familia. See the central nave with its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and the beautiful rainbows flooding in through the intricate stained-glass windows.

Enjoy a free afternoon to explore. (B)

#### DAY 3 ALONG THE COAST TO VALENCIA

**Relaxed Start.** Follow the sunny Costa Dorada, past the rice fields of the Ebro Delta. Stop at the seaside resort of Peñíscola and see the hilltop castle used in the film 'El Cid'.

Pass through the famous orange groves to Valencia and see the City of Arts and Sciences. Later see the Old City and take in its medieval charm.

Valencia is home to one of the world's greatest dishes, paella. Meet the chef of a local family-run restaurant in the heart of the Old City and learn how to make this local specialty during a Cooking Demonstration. Later, indulge in the delicious flavours of this classic dish with a glass of sangria at your Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

Barceló Valencia.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site

Place Visited

1 Central

# DAY 4 EXQUISITE GRANADA AND ALHAMBRA

Travel south toward Andalucía, passing the castle at Lorca and troglodyte dwellings hollowed out of the soft rock near Guadix. Enjoy views of the Sierra Nevada mountains from a distance as you reach glorious Granada. This historic city was a Moorish kingdom for almost eight centuries and was the last stronghold to fall to the Catholic monarchs of Spain in 1492. Overlooking Granada stands the Alhambra, one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built. Led by your Local Expert, explore this exquisite palace, built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century. A fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Later, stroll through the elegant exotic gardens of the Generalife, the Royal summer residence. (B) (DW)

#### Gran Hotel Luna de Granada.

#### DAY 5 A SCENIC DRIVE TO SEVILLE

The morning is at your leisure to explore as you wish. Perhaps join an Optional Experience and visit the Albaicin Quarter with a Local Expert. Here, in addition to falling in love with Granada, you will also uncover its pivotal role in European history. Continue your travels to Seville, past gleaming white villages and olive groves that stretch as far as the eye can see. (B)

#### DAY 6 SEVILLE, THE CITY OF CARMEN

**Relaxed Start.** Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the old Jewish Quarter. Alternatively, join a scenic drive around the city. This evening, visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a private flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson, before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance. (B)

#### Meliá Sevilla, Seville.

# DAY 7 MOORISH CÓRDOBA AND ON TO MADRID

Set off early and journey to Córdoba to see the famous Roman bridge, built in the 1st century BC. Meet a local historian and visit the magnificent Mezquita, a beautiful 8th century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it. Enjoy time at leisure to stroll the narrow streets before continuing to the capital, Madrid. (B)

#### Meliá Madrid Princesa/Melia Serrano Madrid.

#### DAY 8 MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy sightseeing with your Local Expert as they guide you through the most historic neighborhoods in the Spanish capital. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter to discover the origins of the city.

Visit the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. With the afternoon at leisure, perhaps travel to Toledo with an Optional Experience.

Join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant to toast your adventures during a delicious Celebration Dinner served with wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 9 DEPART MADRID

After breakfast, transfers arrive at Madrid airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00. (B)





AUTHENTIC DINING Learn the traditional recipe of paella. (Photo by @Simoninsighttd, Day 3, Valencia)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore the incredible Mezquita with your Local Expert. (Photo by @sara.insightvacations, Day 7, Cordoba)



∛ Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Optional Place Visited

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



| <b>2023</b>                  | 2024                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   01, 08, 15, 22, | JAN   20             |
| 29                           | FEB   03, 24         |
| <b>MAY</b>   06, 13, 20, 27  | MAR   30             |
| <b>JUN</b>   03, 10, 17      | APR   06, 13, 20, 27 |
| JUL  08,22                   | MAY   04, 11, 18, 25 |
| AUG  05,19,26                | JUN   01, 08, 15     |
| SEP  02,09,16,23,30          | JUL   06, 20         |
| OCT  07,14,21,28             | AUG   03, 17, 24, 31 |
| NOV  11                      | SEP   07, 14, 21, 28 |
| DEC   20,27                  | OCT   05, 12, 19, 26 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestmorocco

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEISURELY** 

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 17 MEALS 16 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Marrakesh:** Discover the beauty of Marrakesh on a guided bike tour - organised by a company that empowers local youth by promoting education, employment and financial opportunities.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Dades Valley:** Stop at a traditional Nomad house and meet the locals as you sip Berber tea.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Marrakesh:** Choose to visit the intricately decorated Palais Bahia, intended to be the greatest palace of its time. Alternatively, take a leisurely guided bike tour with an organisation providing financial support to local youth.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Moroccan performance with dinner in Fes • Celebration Dinner at Rick's Café in Casablanca.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Mohammed V Mausoleum in Rabat • Bahia Palace in Marrakesh.

City tours of Rabat, Fes and Marrakesh, all with Local Experts.

See Casablanca • Meknes • Erfoud • Ouarzazate • the Ksar in Aït Benhaddou • Essaouira.

# BEST OF MOROCCO

"Najib, our Local Expert in Morocco, helps you navigate the cultural contrasts of this fascinating country." **– Rory, Travel Director** 





TRADITIONAL MOROCCAN DINNER, MOROCCO



AIT BENHADDOU, MOROCCO

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO CASABLANCA

On arrival at Casablanca airport, your transfer leaves for your landmark city hotel at at 09:00, 12:00 or 15:00.

Join your Travel Director and fellow guests at 18:00 for your Welcome Dinner. (DW)

Grand Mogador City Centre, Casablanca.

#### DAY 2 RABAT, IMPERIAL MEKNES AND FES

**Relaxed Start.** An exploration of the sights of Casablanca will show you the huge Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the country. Venture to the très chic seaside strip known as the Corniche, which stretches to the west and is lined with trendy restaurants and cafes.

Depart for the capital of Rabat to see the Royal Palace, Hassan Tower and visit one of the few holy places open to non-Muslims, the lavish Mausoleum of King Mohammed V. This site is both an architectural marvel and a monument to a great ruler. Travel to Meknes, one of the kingdom's great imperial cities where little has changed since its founding in the 11th century. Stand before the Bab el-Mansour, the monumental entrance to the imperial city and focal point of Place El-Hedim, before continuing to Fes.

You'll be delighted with a superb Moroccan Highlight Dinner in an ancient palace at the entrance to the Medina. A colourful array of meze plates, aromatic tagines, exotic fruits and wine will be laid before you while you are entertained with a traditional folklore show. Enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere of belly dancers, drums and authentic music. (B) (DW)

Marriott Jnan Palace, Fes.

#### DAY 3 FES SIGHTSEEING

Relaxed Start. Led by your Local Expert, wander the maze of streets that make up the ancient Medina. Pass one of the world's oldest universities and see the hidden courtyards, mosques and workshops. Continue through the souks where an array of vendors sell food, clothes, leather goods and beautiful lights. Learn about the ancient craft of carpet making, witness age-old techniques of pottery making and learn how khobz, the traditional local bread, is made. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 4 THE ZIZ GORGES TO ERFOUD

Leave the bustle of the city behind and head for the spectacular snowcapped High Atlas Mountains. Pass through Ifrane before reaching the great cedar forests of Azrou. After stopping for lunch at Midelt, continue through the magnificent Ziz Gorges, past palm-fringed towns to Er Rachidia, built by the French at an important crossroads. Your destination is Erfoud, where the red sand buildings stand in stark contrast against the patches of greenery and surrounding desert. In the evening, there is an Optional Experience to meet the nomadic desert dwellers and marvel at the glorious Sahara sunset on a four-wheel drive vehicle. (B) (L) (DW)

#### Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Arfoud, Efroud.

#### DAY 5 SPECTACULAR OUARZAZATE

Venture towards the oasis of Tinehir and explore the Todra Gorge, known as the Grand Canyon of the Sahara.

At Boumalne du Dadès you will encounter the dry and rugged Dades Valley, dotted with oases of figs, olives, date palms and castellated mud houses hugging the slopes. Meet the locals of the region when you visit a traditional Nomad house and try authentic Berber tea.

The Road of a Thousand Kasbahs concludes at Ouarzazate, also known as the film capital of Morocco. Many blockbusters have been filmed here, including Lawrence of Arabia and Star Wars. (B) (L) (DW)

#### Le Berbère Palace, Ouarzazate.

#### DAY 6 TO MARRAKESH

Marvel at and photograph the architectural wonder of Ksar of Aït Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that boasts one of Morocco's finest kasbahs.

Your journey continues via the spectacular Tizi n'Tichka Pass, before descending past charming mountain villages, dense woods and green fields to the ochre-coloured city of Marrakesh. With the rest of the day at your leisure, why not relax and enjoy the immaculate facilities of your hotel? (B)

#### Kenzi Rose Garden, Marrakesh.



#### DAY 7 MARRAKESH, PEARL OF THE SOUTH

Relaxed Start. Meet your Local Expert in the bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa Square, where you can take a moment to watch the dancers, snake charmers, storvtellers and acrobats. Wander the maze of the Medina and see the Koutoubia Mosque, with its minaret dominating the Marrakesh skyline. Explore Marrakesh with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the intricately decorated Palais Bahia, intended to be the greatest palace of its time. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you take a leisurely guided bike tour with an organization providing financial support to local youth. With time at leisure, you are free to continue exploring, try your hand at haggling in the souks or maybe visit a museum? In the evening, perhaps choose to join fellow guests at a vibrant restaurant on Jemaa el-Fnaa Square. Here you will enjoy a slew of classic Moroccan dishes as you absorb the ambience and watch twirling belly dancers balance plates of lit candles on their heads. (B)

#### DAY 8 ELEGANT ESSAOUIRA

**Relaxed Start.** Reach the fishing town of Essaouira. After checking into your hotel, why not spend the afternoon navigating the narrow alleyways, exploring the busy fishing port or maybe just relaxing on the beach? In the evening, you could sample the local seafood and wine at a waterside restaurant. (B)

#### Atlas Essaouira & Spa.

#### DAY 9 RETURN TO CASABLANCA

**Relaxed Start.** Once you've experienced the traditional charms of the country, Casablanca is a fascinating place to return to and offers a unique insight into modern Morocco.

In the evening 'of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world' there really is only one place to be.

Join your Travel Director at Rick's Café, recreated from the famous movie. Enjoy a hearty Celebration Dinner with drinks and no doubt a rendition of 'As Time Goes By'. Here's looking at you kid! (B) (DW)

Grand Mogador City Centre, Casablanca.

#### DAY 10 AU REVOIR CASABLANCA

Departure transfers arrive at Casablanca airport at 05:00, 07:00, 10:00 and 12:00. (B)





INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Visit a traditional Nomad house to try authentic Berber tea. (Photo by @Sharon\_insta, Day 5, Ouarzazate)



| 2023<br>APR   08, 15, 22, 29<br>MAY   04, 06, 11, 13,<br>18, 20, 25, 27<br>JUN   03, 10, 17, 24<br>JUL   01, 08, 15, 22, 29<br>AUG   05, 12, 19, 26,<br>31<br>SEP   02, 07, 09, 14,<br>16, 21, 23, 28, 30<br>OCT   07, 14, 21 | 2024<br>APR   06, 13, 20, 27<br>MAY   02, 04, 09, 11,<br>16, 18, 23, 25<br>JUN   01, 08, 15, 22,<br>29<br>JUL   06, 13, 20, 27<br>AUG   03, 10, 17, 24,<br>29, 31<br>SEP   05, 07, 12, 14,<br>19, 21, 26, 28<br>OCT   05, 12, 19 |
|---|--|
|   | <b>OCT  </b> 05, 12, 19  |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/northernspain

Combine this trip with **Highlights of Spain** to form **Spanish Heritage**.

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEISURELY** 

11 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 14 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**San Sebastian:** Uncover the important maritime cultural heritage of the Basque country on a neighbourhood walking tour in the old harbour area.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Madrid:** Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings, plus an impressive international collection, as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Santiago de Compostela: Choose to join a city tour with a Local Expert to visit the cathedral. Alternatively, embark on a scenic walk on the Way of St. James, through parks and gardens.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

**Gijón:** Meet Flor for a delicious meal of locally sourced produce that she has prepared just for you.

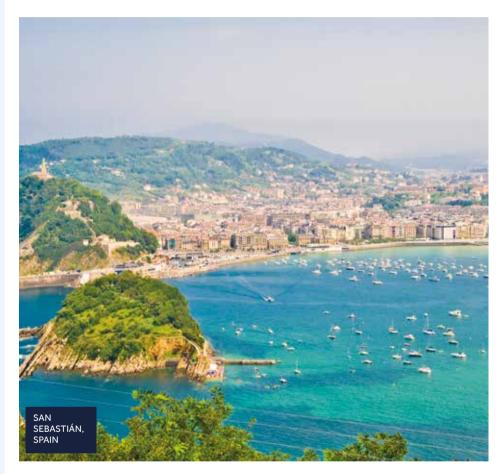
Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Taste wine in Rueda • Celebration Dinner in Barcelona.

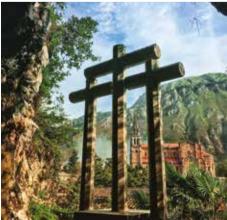
#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Picos de Europa National Park • Holy Cave of Covadonga • Monte Igueldo in San Sebastián • Sagrada Família.

# NORTHERN SPAIN

"This trip follows the Camino trail, the famous pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela... but backwards!" **– Enzo, Travel Director** 





@TRAVELFILIPPO, COVADONGA



(@LEANNE4874, SEGOVIA'S ALCAZAR, (OPTIONAL)

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#### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO MADRID

Your transfer will depart Madrid airport at 09:00, 11:30. 13:30 or 16:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over an evening of delicious food and wine. (DW)

Meliá Madrid Serrano / Melia Madrid Princesa.

#### **DAY 2** MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Explore Madrid with your Local Expert as they guide you through the Spanish capital's most historic neighborhoods.

Visit the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B)

#### **DAY 3** THROUGH THE GUADARRAMA MOUNTAINS TO SANTIAGO

Journey through the Guadarrama Mountains to the infinite horizons of Old Castile and pass the impressive Castillo de la Mota.

#### Some of Spain's most fashionable white wines are produced in Rueda. This morning we have the opportunity to learn how they are made and sample the delights of the Verdejo grape. Continue past historic Tordesillas, and on to

Santiago de Compostela. (B) (DW)

NH Collection Santiago de Compostela.

#### DAY 4 SAINTLY SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Relaxed Start. Explore Santiago de Compostela with Insight Choice. Choose to join a city tour with a Local Expert and visit the cathedral, festooned with architectural frills. Alternatively, embark on a scenic walk along the Way of St. James, through scenic parks and gardens.

Relax during your free time, or explore the narrow streets and old city squares. (B)

**KEY** 

#### DAY 5 ALONG THE COSTA VERDE TO OVIEDO

**Relaxed Start.** Pass through Galicia to the Green Coast of Asturias. Take in the coastal views en route to Oviedo.

A short drive brings you to the Bay of Biscay.

Meet Flor, a local who will invite you to join her for lunch. Hear about daily life in her hilltop village, as you enjoy a delicious meal that Flor has prepared from locally sourced ingredients, accompanied by delicious local cider.

In Oviedo. a Local Expert shows you the 9th century churches. Visit the Cathedral of the Holy Savior in Plaza Alfonso II. Admire the incredible altarpiece, one of the finest in Europe. (B) (LW)

#### Barceló Oviedo Cervantes.

#### DAY 6 PICTURESQUE SANTILLANA DEL MAR AND ON TO SANTANDER

Visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo. See the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís and head into Picos de Europa, a national park boasting spectacular scenery. Enjoy views of the Costa de Čantabria while travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Continue to Santander. (B)

#### Eurostars Hotel Real. Santander.

#### DAY 7 BILBAO, COSTA VASCA AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

Relaxed Start. In nearby Bilbao, admire the striking architecture of the Guggenheim Museum. Enjoy the views as you are driven along part of the Costa Vasca and pause in Getaria to see 'El Ratón', the mouse-shaped rock.

Continue to San Sebastián and admire its beauty during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Explore the secrets of the harbour area and uncover the forgotten Basque maritime cultural heritage. (B)

Barceló Costa Vasca. San Sebastián.

#### DAY 8 SAN SEBASTIÁN, PEARL OF THE **CANTABRIAN COAST**

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk or enjoy several sporting activities on its large sandy beach. Perhaps you'll want to explore the nearby French villages of Saint-Jean-de-Luz and Biarritz, stroll the promenade of the famous La Concha bay or enjoy the boutiques of the Old Town? (B)

#### DAY 9 PAMPLONA AND ON TO BARCELONA

Journey to the famed town of Pamplona where vou are free to explore. Perhaps stroll to Estafeta Street or visit Café Iruña, immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 'The Sun Also Rises?' Continue to Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia, a land that retains its own distinctive language, culture and traditions. (B)

#### Hotel Hesperia Barcelona Presidente.

#### DAY 10 BARCELONA, THE CITY OF GAUDÍ

Join a Local Expert and drive along the Passeig de Gràcia to reach the Eixample district and behold Gaudí's Sagrada Família. Venture inside to see its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and incredible stained-glass windows.

In the evening, join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant. Raise your glass and toast your travels during your delightful Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 11 DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport at 07:00, 09:00 or 11:00. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening. (B)



INSIGHT CHOICE Visit Santiago de Compostela Catherdral with a Local Expert. (Day 4, Santiago de Compostela)





| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 15, 29 | <b>APR  </b> 13, 27 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 13, 27 | MAY   11, 25        |
| <b>JUN</b> 10       | 80 <b>  NUL</b>     |
| SEP 02, 16, 30      | AUG 31              |
| <b>OCT  </b> 14     | <b>SEP  </b> 14, 28 |
|                     | OCT   12            |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/epspain

EASY PACE ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 12 MEALS 10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**San Sebastian:** Uncover the important maritime cultural heritage of the Basque country on a neighbourhood walking tour in the old harbour area.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Madrid:** Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings, plus an impressive international collection, as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Barcelona • Pintxos Dinner in San Sebastián • Celebration Dinner in Madrid.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

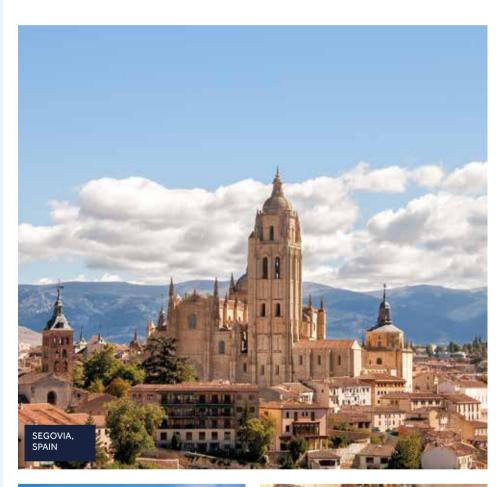
Visit the Sagrada Família. City tours of Barcelona, San Sebastián, Segovia and Madrid, all with Local Experts. See Burgos' cathedral • Zaragoza's El Pilar and Río Ebro • Pamplona.

#### **SCENIC DRIVES**

Enjoy the scenery of the Río Ebro River, Basque Country, Sierra de Guadarrama and the Plains of La Mancha.

# EASY PACE SPAIN

"Do you know how to toast in Spanish? I'll teach you the long version with hand gestures: 'Arriba, abajo, al centro y pa'dentro'." – Denise, Travel Director





SAN SEBASTIÁN



PINXTOS, SAN SEBASTIÁN

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#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BARCELONA

Airport transfers depart from Barcelona airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, as you get to know your fellow travellers over Spanish delicacies and regional wines. (DW)

NH Collection Barcelona Constanza.

#### DAY 2 BARCELONA, THE CITY OF GAUDÍ

**Relaxed Start.** Sightseeing with your Local Expert begins with a drive down the Passeig de Gràcia to Gaudí's Sagrada Família. Venture inside the leviathan of the Eixample where a tree canopy carved from stone, holds up the roof as sun pours through stained glass.

You are then free to explore this amazing city at your own pace. (B)

#### DAY 3 BARCELONA AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a relaxed start and a full day at leisure to explore Spain's most vibrant city. Consider a stroll along the famous Las Ramblas or explore Gaudí's fascinating Güell Park. Perhaps ascend Montserrat, Catalonia's most important pilgrimage site for a thousand years? (B)

#### DAY 4 PAMPLONA AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

Journey to Zaragoza to see the towers of El Pilar and the Río Ebro.

Continue to Pamplona with free time to explore as you wish.

Travel to the aristocratic seaside resort of San Sebastián to discover the city's rich gastronomic tradition in the heart of Lo Viejo. (B)

#### Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

#### DAY 5 BILBAO AND GUGGENHEIM

**Relaxed Start.** Explore Bilbao with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the spectacular Guggenheim Museum to marvel at its modern architecture and contemporary works of art. Alternatively, join your Local Expert and take the funicular to Mount Artxanda. On return, join a Local Expert to admire San Sebastián and the crescent-shaped La Concha Bay from the heights of Monte Igueldo. During your guided tour see the numbered balconies of the Plaza de la Constitución, a reminder of the days when bullfights were held in the square.

Explore the Old Town during your progressive Highlight Dinner with the locals, as you enjoy the gastronomic Basque tradition of pintxos. Similar to tapas, enjoy a variety of snack-sized treats and be sure to try some of the local Txakoli wine. Buen provecho! (B) (DW)

# DAY 6 SAN SEBASTIÁN, PEARL OF THE CANTABRIAN COAST

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk. The harbor is filled with fishing boats and pleasure crafts, so you can enjoy several sporting activities on its large sandy beach. Perhaps explore the nearby French village of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, known as the Jewel of the Basque Country? (B)

#### DAY 7 BURGOS AND MADRID

**Relaxed Start.** Journey south through the Pyrenees foothills and the land of El Cid for a stop in Burgos, where you can see the cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue along the Guadarrama Mountains to the plateau of New Castile and Spain's elegant capital of Madrid. In the evening, why not see the city lit up it all its glory, with a drive along the grand avenues and past the spectacular fountains? (B)

#### Meliá Madrid Princesa, Madrid.

#### DAY 8 MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Explore Madrid with your Local Expert as they guide you through the Spanish capital's most historic neighborhoods.

Visit the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 9 THE MEDIEVAL STREETS OF SEGOVIA

**Relaxed Start.** Venture north to visit the fascinating city of Segovia. Walk the medieval streets of this fortified city with your Local Expert and see the 14th century Alcazar Palace. You are at leisure after returning to Madrid.

Make the most of your final night as you join your fellow travellers for a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant. Enjoy delightful regional produce paired with the finest local wines, as you toast to a vacation done well. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 DEPART MADRID

After breakfast, transfers arrive at Madrid airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit Gaudi's Sagrada Família with your Local Expert. (Photo by @sueinsight, Day 2, Barcelona)





AUTHENTIC DINING Mount Artxanda, Bilbao. (Photo by @Danminsighttd, Day 5, San Sebastián)



郗 Join/Leave Options

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

**KEY** 

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





| 2023                      | 2024                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>APR  </b> 05, 12 ,19, 26 |
| MAY 05, 12, 19, 26        | <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24,  |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23 | 31                          |
| JUL 07, 21                | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21     |
| AUG 04, 18                | <b>JUL </b> 05, 19          |
| SEP 01,08,15,22,29        | <b>AUG</b> 02, 16, 30       |
| <b>OCT</b>  06            | SEP 06, 13, 20, 27          |
|                           | <b>OCT </b> 04              |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crportugal

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 15 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

**Monsaraz:** Join a local boat captain for a tranquil cruise of Lake Alqueva. Relax and enjoy calming waters, picturesque views and tales of river life.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Porto:** Choose to visit the iconic São Bento Railway Station and walk on the Dom Luís I Bridge in Porto. Alternatively, see the Clérigos Tower, the Atlantic coast at the mouth of the Douro and the main Liberdade Square.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Monsaraz: Enjoy a memorable Alentejo Highlight Lunch at local restaurant Sem Fim, once an olive mill. Indulge in dish-after-dish of the tastiest tapas in a vibrant setting.

Welcome Dinner in Lisbon • Farm-to-Table dining in Douro Valley • Celebration Dinner in Porto.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Jerónimos Monastery • Capela dos Ossos in Évora • Chapel of the Apparitions in Fátima • Templar Castle • Convent of Christ and Synagogue in Tomar.

City tours of Lisbon, Tomar, Évora, Coimbra and Porto all with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF PORTUGAL

"Portuguese custard tarts, pastéis de nata, only exist because of the nuns' laundry room. Egg whites were used to starch clothing and the remaining egg yolk was used to make the tarts." – Dom, Travel Director





MONUMENT TO THE DISCOVERIES, LISBON



MONSARAZ CRUISE, ALQUEVA DAM RESERVOIR

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO LISBON

On arrival at Lisbon International Airport, there are complimentary transfers to your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant and the opportunity to mingle with your fellow travellers. (DW)

#### Corinthia Hotel, Lisbon.

# DAY 2 LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES

Your guided sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and across the tree-shaded squares. Pass beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paço. See the ancient Belém Tower and marvel at the Monument to the Discoveries.

Explore more of the Belém Quarter as you enjoy a Taste Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon from the patisserie that has been using the same secret recipe for almost 200 years, and visit Jerónimos Monastery. This evening, gain further insight into Portuguese culture with an Optional Experience dinner. (B)

#### Altis Grand Hotel, Lisbon.

#### DAY 3 THE ALGARVE

Cross the River Tagus to reach Lagos, a coastal fishing port nestled in the bay of Meia Praia. After free time to explore, continue to your resort hotel set within a magnificent 360-acre estate. A short walk away, specialized Portuguese seafood restaurants hug the coastline, overlooking the Atlantic. (B)

#### Ria Park Hotel & Spa, Algarve.

#### DAY 4 EVERLASTING ÉVORA

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to the medieval walled city of Évora where cathedrals, churches, aqueducts and ancient castle walls all serve to create the feeling that this beautiful city is a living, breathing museum to Portugal's rich past.

Join your Local Expert to explore the highlights of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Roman Temple and visit the cathedral as well as the Capela dos Ossos, an extraordinary 17th century chapel made of bones. (B)

#### M'Ar de Ar Aqueduto, Évora.

#### DAY 5 MONSARAZ AND ÉVORA

**Relaxed Start.** Travel to the striking white village of Monsaraz and take in the spectacular views from the castle ruins.

Join a local boat captain for a leisurely cruise on the tranquil waters of Lake Alqueva. Relax and enjoy calming waters, picturesque views and tales of river life.

#### Sit down to a delicious Highlight Lunch at local restaurant Sem Fim, once an olive mill. Enjoy a wide range of tasty tapas dishes showcasing the local cuisine, and soak up the vibrant; cheerful atmosphere.

Return to Évora where the evening is at your leisure to explore this beautifully preserved regional capital. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 6 FÁTIMA AND ON TO TOMAR

Continue to Fátima, Portugal's most renowned place of pilgrimage. See the basilica or perhaps visit the Chapel of the Apparitions.

In Tomar, visit the Templar Castle and the Convent of Christ, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join your Local Expert to explore the Templars' Rotunda and glimpse the day-to-day life of a warrior monk. See the Manueline Window, a national masterpiece and visit the Synagogue of Tomar and its small Jewish museum. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel dos Templários, Tomar.

#### DAY 7 COIMBRA AND THE DOURO VALLEY

**Relaxed Start.** In Coimbra, your Local Expert will guide you through the Old Town, before visiting the baroque university library, one of the finest in the world.

Your journey continues past verdant hills and lush vineyards, along the tranquil waters of the Douro river.

Enjoy a wonderful Farm-to-Table Dinner, freshly prepared from locally sourced ingredients, with a port wine tasting. (B) (DW)

Douro Palace Hotel Resort & Spa, Douro Valley.

#### DAY 8 GUIMARÃES AND PORTO

Relaxed Start. Journey to Guimarães to admire the views from the ruined castle and explore the cobbled streets and cosy squares. Explore Porto with Insight Choice. Choose to join your Local Expert and visit the São Bento Railway Station, with a walk along the architecturally impressive Dom Luís I Bridge. Alternatively, explore the Clérigos Tower, Liberdade Square and the nearby Atlantic beaches, also led by a Local Expert. In the evening you are at leisure to enjoy your boutique, five-star hotel, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, in the heart of Porto's historic district. The decor is a mix of classic and contemporary and each room is individually decorated with original artwork. (B)

#### Pousado do Porto Rua Das Flores.

# DAY 9 PORTO, GRANDE DAME ON THE DOURO

**Relaxed Start.** With a full day free to enjoy at your own pace, why not take a stroll to admire the multicoloured houses of Porto? Perhaps choose to visit Braga, the capital of baroque.

In the evening, bid adeus to your Travel Director and fellow travellers with a mouth-watering Celebration Dinner with wine at an authentic Porto restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 ÓBIDOS AND ONTO LISBON

Journey to the fortified town of Óbidos where there is free time to explore. This afternoon your travels continue to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. (B)

#### Dom Pedro Lisboa, Lisbon.

#### **DAY 11** DEPART LISBON

After breakfast, your departure transfer arrives at Lisbon International Airport at 07:00 or 09:30. (B)







#### KEY

1 Central Hotels + Nights

(1) Scenic Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.

| 2023                        | 2024                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| <b>JUN</b> 03, 10, 17, 24   | MAR 02,09,16,23,30            |
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| DEC   20, 27, 30            | SEP 07, 14, 21, 28            |
|                             | <b>OCT</b>   05, 12, 19, 26   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/amazingspain

Combine this trip with **Northern Spain** to create **Grand Spain & Portugal**.

® REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

#### 9 DAYS

2 COUNTRIES 11 MEALS 14 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

## feefoe 4.6

GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Seville:** The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students, learn some basic flamenco steps, and watch them perform an emotional show.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Granada:** Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens. While others wait in line, you'll be exploring accompanied by a Local Expert, keen to share insights into this Moorish landmark.

Visit a Damascene workshop in Toledo.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seville:** Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Taste Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon • Celebration Dinner in Madrid.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Capela dos Ossos in Evora • Jerónimos Monastery • Fátima Basilica. City tours of Madrid, Toledo, Seville and

Lisbon, all with Local Experts.

# AMAZING SPAIN & PORTUGAL

"Guests really love to meet our Local Expert Carlos in Toledo. His passion for his hometown is the perfect introduction to Spain." **– Daniel, Travel Director** 





ÉVORA



ALHAMBRA GENERALIFE GARDEN, GRANADA

80

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADRID

Your airport transfer departs Madrid airport for your hotel at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 or 16:00. While in Madrid, explore the elegant boulevards, expansive parks and varied architectural styles.

At 18:30, join your Travel Director for your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid.

#### DAY 2 THE OLD CAPITAL OF TOLEDO AND ON TO GRANADA

Venture south to meet a master artisan in a Damascene workshop for a personal insight into this ancient craft, handed down by the Moors centuries ago.

Continue to the fascinating city of Toledo, situated high above the River Tagus. This was Spain's capital during the golden era, where Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures flourished side-by-side through the Middle Ages. Walk within the city walls, through the narrow cobbled streets, led by your Local Expert. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé, housing El Greco's famous painting, 'The Burial of the Count of Orgaz.

Your journey continues to Granada. (B) (DW)

Vincci Albayzín, Granada.

#### DAY 3 THE ALHAMBRA PALACE AND SEVILLE, CITY OF CARMEN

'Give him alms, woman, because there is nothing sadder in life than being blind in Granada,' proclaims the inscription on the walls of the Alhambra. Bathed in the morning light, the Alhambra Palace awaits - a fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Explore with your Local Expert before visiting the exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the summer residence of the Spanish rovals

Take a moment to relax in the sunshine as you enjoy the fine views over the town and its three verdant hills before continuing to Seville. Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore the city with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the old Jewish quarter. Alternatively, enjoy a drive with panoramic views. (B)

#### Catalonia Giralda Hotel, Seville.

**KEY** 

#### DAY 4 FREE TIME AND FLAMENCO IN SEVILLE

**Relaxed Start.** This day is yours to completely relax or continue exploring this fascinating city. Perhaps ioin an Optional Experience to Córdoba and visit the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it? Visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a private flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson, before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance. (B)

#### DAY 5 ÉVORA AND ONTO LISBON

Relaxed Start. Continue to the lively university town of Évora .

Visit the fascinating Capela dos Ossos, a chapel decorated with human bones, before making your way to Lisbon. (B)

#### Turim Saldanha Hotel, Lisbon.

#### DAY 6 LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE DISCOVERIES

Relaxed Start. During your stay, a guided orientation of the city with your Local Expert takes you along the avenues of the Lower Town and beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city.

#### Visit the Belém Quarter and enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same, secret recipe for almost 200 years.

View the Monument to the Discoveries and the historic Belém Tower. This fortress was originally set in the middle of the river, but is now left high and dry on the riverbank. Visit the 500-year-old Jerónimos Church with its beautiful Manueline architecture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the beautiful Portuguese Riviera? (B)

#### DAY 7 HOLY FÁTIMA AND SALAMANCA

Relaxed Start. Travel into the green hills north of Lisbon to visit Fátima, the most celebrated place of pilgrimage in Portugal. Visit the chapel commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three children in 1917.

Cross the border and continue to Salamanca to see its golden stone buildings, the handsome arcades of the Plaza Mayor and the Puente Romano, (B)

#### Hotel Alameda Palace, Salamanca.

#### DAY 8 ÁVILA AND MADRID

Travel to Ávila to walk within the ancient city, still entirely enclosed within 11th century walls. Return to Madrid to explore more of the capital with your Local Expert.

At a local restaurant, join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a lively Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

Melia Madrid Serrano/Melia Madrid Princesa.

#### **DAY 9** FAREWELL MADRID

After breakfast, transfers arrive at Madrid airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHTLIGHT Walk within the city walls with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Concept\_by\_kym, Day 3, Granada)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Take a chance to see Plaza de España during your time in Seville. (Photo by @Travelling\_insighttim, Day 3, Seville)





# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS**

By our guests and Travel Directors



O @INSIGHTANNA CAPRI, ITALY

AR



ARACH.MCCULLOCH
 VENICE GONDOLA, ITALY



CAROLINAPHOTOGIRL RUINS OF POMPEII, ITALY



O @MARGHERITA\_INSIGHT SORRENTO, ITALY





MARGHERITA TRULLI HOUSES, ITALY



(a) VINDIEZEL SPANISH STEPS, ITALY



O OVINDIEZEL CASTEL SAINT ANGELO, ITALY



# Italy, Sicily & Malta



Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to watch a video about \_\_\_\_\_\_ Italy. Best of Italy 11 DAYS | PAGE 84 Grand Italy & Sicily 17 DAYS | PAGE 87 Easy Pace Italy 10 DAYS | PAGE 90 Treasures of Italy

11 DAYS | PAGE 92 Italian Elegance 12 DAYS | PAGE 94

Italian Escapade 13 DAYS | PAGE 96

Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily

14 DAYS | PAGE 98 Country Roads

of Italy 16 DAYS | PAGE 100

Italian Intermezzo 8 DAYS | PAGE 102



Sicily in Depth (with Malta) 8/13 DAYS | PAGE 104

Country Roads of Northern Italy 10 DAYS | PAGE 106

Country Roads of Puglia & the Neapolitan Riviera 9 DAYS | Available online

Country Roads of Umbria & Tuscany 9 DAYS | Available online

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestitaly

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 16 MEALS 18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Vesuvius National Park:** Visit Casa Barone, a small family-run farm on the slopes of Mt. Vesuvius and one of the world's only producers of Piennolo tomatoes. Learn about their commitment to sustainability and taste the flavours of this special tomato during your Farm-to-Table lunch.

Visit a glassblowing workshop in Venice.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Restaurant Dinner in Florence • Celebration Dinner in Rome.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride in an open-top taxi in Capri • Enjoy a gondola serenade in Venice • Visit Pompeii

Visit the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

# **BEST OF ITALY**

"Italy is the world's biggest wine producer, with the largest number of native wine grape varieties. Experience delicious cuisine as we travel throughout the peninsula and enjoy a range of Italian wines." – Chris, Travel Director





GLASS BLOWING, VENICE A #MAKETRAVELMATTER EXPERIENCE



ASSISI

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

# DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

The day is devoted to The Eternal City. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth visit to the Vatican Museums, full of priceless art treasures collected by the Popes. Insight has arranged special priority entry and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture, normally off-limits to visitors. Visit the Sistine Chapel, where Popes are elected, to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, to wonder at another of his works, the emotive 'Pietà,' and stand beneath the dome completed after his death. Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus. Admire the beautifully preserved Arch of Constantine, and walk on the ancient pavement. Discover the history, the construction and the legends of the iconic Colosseum as you stroll around the exterior of this amazing structure. Later, perhaps continue your exploration of Rome to see the Pantheon, toss a coin in the Trevi Fountain and enjoy free time around Piazza Navona? (B)

#### DAY 3 THE CHIANTI HILLS TO FLORENCE

Drive to the Chianti Hills and the city of Florence. On arrival, you will be privy to the secrets of traditional Florentine leatherwork and see a gold demonstration.

## This evening, indulge in a delicious meal at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### NH Firenze/Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence.

# DAY 4 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a guided shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer.

Continue on foot to the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery, where Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise have been recreated in all their glory. Visit Piazza della Signoria, still the political heart of Florence and an open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Spend time gazing at statues such as Neptune and Hercules and Cacus along the front of the Palazzo Vecchio. In the afternoon, perhaps visit medieval San Gimignano? (B)

# **DAY 5** PISA TO VENICE, THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC

Journey to the coastal town of Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles, as well as the baptistery and colonnaded bell tower behind the cathedral.

Relax and enjoy the scenery as you cross the spectacular Apennine Mountains, through the Emilia-Romagna region - one of Europe's most intensely farmed and fertile plains. Continue through the marshes of the Venetian Lagoon before crossing the causeway into the floating city of Venice. As evening falls, day-trippers desert the city to return to the mainland. Appreciate the peace and tranquility of Venice from your centrally located hotel.

This evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

NH Venezia Santa Lucia, Venice.



O **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** See the iconic Colosseum with a Local Expert. (*Photo by* @vindiezel, Day 2, Rome)









**INSIGHT EXPERIENCE** Visit St. Peter's Basilica as part of a fascinating guided exploration of the Vatican. (*Photo by* @insightanna, Day 2, Vatican City)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Take a chance to toss a coin in The Trevi Fountain. (Photo by @Samuel\_wayne93, Day 2, Rome)





# DAY 6 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Relaxed Start. Your private boat takes you past historic churches and 13th century palaces to St. Mark's Square. The first sight is the gilded facade of St. Mark's Basilica. Turn the corner, and view the pink marble of the Doge's Palace, connected to the prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape. Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. (B)

#### DAY 7 ASSISI

Journey to the peaceful town of Assisi, dotted with medieval churches, colourful frescoes and shady courtyards.

In the valley, see the Church of St. Mary of the Angels, much venerated as the place of St. Francis' death, then continue up Mount Subasio to the upper town.

With your Local Expert, step inside the huge Basilica of St. Francis, built in the 13th century. The frescoes painted by Giotto here heralded a new era in Italian art.

Arrive at your hotel, located in the heart of the medieval Old Town. Enjoy the tranquility of the historic old town during free time. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Giotto Assisi.

#### DAY 8 SORRENTO ON THE COAST

Travel south passing Cassino, the scene of a fierce battle during World War II. Follow the spectacular clifftop road to the picturesque resort of Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples to Mount Vesuvius . After checking in to your hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure. (B)

#### Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

86

#### DAY 9 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

Cross the Bay of Naples to reach the beautiful Isle of Capri, a rock rising sheer from the Mediterranean! For 2,000 years, Capri has beckoned visitors from Tiberius to Gracie Fields. Arriving at the Marina Grande by boat, ascend to Capri town by one of the island's iconic open-top taxis.

A Local Expert joins you for an exploration of the narrow alleyways. Browse in deluxe boutiques and wonder at the views over the Tyrrhenian Sea. Descend to the port by funicular railway and return to Sorrento, where you are at leisure for the rest of the day. Perhaps head to Positano for an exploration of the colourful Amalfi Coast? (B)

# DAY 10 POMPEII, FROZEN IN TIME AND ON TO ROME

Continue to Pompeii, the opulent Roman town which was preserved by layers of ash from the disastrous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. A walk with your Local Expert through the cobbled streets and extensive excavations reveals the daily life of ancient Roman civilization. Visit the Forum and peer into shops and patrician villas, decorated with colourful wall paintings.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in Vesuvius National Park and visit Casa Barone. This small family run farm on the slopes of the volcano is one of the world's only producers of Piennolo tomatoes, an endangered fruit that only thrives in the fertile volcanic soil. Each harvest is sustainably farmed and cared for by the extended Barone family, who all work here.

Be sure to savour the unique flavours of this rare tomato during a truly unique Farm-to-Table lunch. Your journey continues to Rome. In the evening, enjoy an elegant four-course Celebration Dinner with local wine at a Roman restaurant. As you dine, enjoy a private performance of popular songs and arias from some of Italy's best-loved operas. (B) (LW) (DW)

NH Roma Centro/Hotel Romanico Palace.

#### DAY 11 ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30. (B)





**INSIGHT CHOICE** Visit the Accademia Museum to see Michelangelo's David. (Photo by @kolange06, Day 4, Florence)



0

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE Cruise around the glamorous Isle of Capri. (Photo by (@Insightanna, Day 9, Capri)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the illfated town of Pompeii with a Local Expert. (Photo by @Carolinaphotogirl, Day 10, Pompeii)

# GRAND ITALY & SICILY

"In Alberobello, guests love our Dine-at-Home experience and meeting the Italian family, three generations living under the same roof. Nonna demonstrates how to shape the orecchiette pasta and her young grandsons serve the food." – Liz, Travel Director





DINE-AT-HOME, ALBEROBELLO A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE



@PETERINSIGHTEUROPE, ROME

#### **TRIP START DATES**

| 2023                        | 2024                       |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 30                          | <b>JUN</b> 07, 14, 21, 28  |
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| <b>SEP</b> 01,08,15,22,29   | 30                         |
| <b>OCT</b>  06              | SEP 06, 13, 20, 27         |
| •                           | <b>OCT</b>  04             |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/granditaly

# ® REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: DYNAMIC

17 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 24 MEALS 23 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup>

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Restaurant Dinner in Venice • Bistecca alla Fiorentina Dinner in Florence • Celebration Dinner in Palermo.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel from Portofino to Santa Margherita on a cruise • Ride a gondola in Venice • Cruise to the Isle of Capri and ride in an open-top taxi.

Visit Norman Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo • Greek Amphitheatre in Taormina.

City tours of Rome, Pisa, Cinque Terre, Florence, Pompeii, Isle of Capri, Matera, Alberobello, Taormina and Palermo, all with Local Experts.

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30. Get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel St. Martin, Rome.

#### DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A I OCAL

A Local Expert leads you through the priceless art collection of the Vatican Museums, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Your priority visit includes fasttracked entry to the museums and a behind-thescenes look at the Bramante Staircase. Later, continue to St. Peter's Basilica and cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome.

See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum. (B)

#### DAY 3 PISA AND SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

Enjoy a delightful drive to Pisa through rolling countryside dotted with cypress trees, passing vineyards and olive groves.

With a Local Expert, view the incredible Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles from which Galileo is said to have conducted experiments on velocity and gravity. See the splendid cathedral and baptistery, decorated with mosaics and designs in solid marble.

Your journey continues to the pretty seaside resort of Santa Margherita Ligure. (B) (DW)

#### Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

#### DAY 4 THE CHARMS OF THE CINQUE TERRE

Head to the famous Cinque Terre, which translates to Five Lands. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is located on a gorgeously wild yet hospitable part of the coastline.

With a Local Expert, approach one of the fishing villages by boat. In Monterosso, spend some time exploring the medieval guarter or the popular sandy beach before continuing to the village of Portofino, famed for its colourful houses. Should weather permit, return with a cruise along the rugged Ligurian coast to your hotel in the resort of Santa Margherita. (B)



(Photo by @Elaine.beach, Day 4, Italy)

TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Take in the sights of Manarola.

Relaxed Start. Head north to beautiful Lake Maggiore in the Italian Lakes District and the town of Bayeno, noted for its narrow cobbled streets and charming 16th century square. On arrival, settle into your hotel and take in the magical scenery. In the afternoon, why not join an optional cruise to Isola Bella to explore the palace and admire the

stunning and immaculate Italian style gardens. (B)

Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

**DAY 5** LAKE MAGGIORE

#### **DAY 6** ONTO VENICE

Relaxed Start. Your travels continue past the vineyards of Soave, the university town of Padua and on to the canals of Venice.

In the evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### NH Venezia Rio Novo.

#### DAY 7 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Relaxed Start. Your private boat takes you past historic churches and 13th century palaces to St. Mark's Square. The first sight is the gilded facade of St. Mark's Basilica. Turn the corner, and view the pink marble of the Doge's Palace, connected to the prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape.

Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. (B)

#### **DAY 8** A SCENIC JOURNEY TO FLORENCE

Bid farewell to Venice and begin your journey to Renaissance Florence.

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum to see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a guided shopping tour.

Walk to the Cathedral and see Giotto's bell tower and the Gates of Paradise on the baptistery. Wander through the open-air gallery of Piazza della Signoria, gazing at statues such as Neptune, Hercules and Cacus, along the front of the Palazzo Vecchio. Your exploration will finish in front of the basilica where Michelangelo lies buried in Piazza Santa Croce.

Enjoy a traditional Bistecca alla Fiorentina steak dinner paired with delicious local wine, a specialty not to be missed. (B) (DW)

Hilton Garden Inn Florence Novoli.

#### DAY 9 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Relaxed Start. Start the day with a traditional Florentine leather-work demonstration and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to explore the hilltop town of San Gimignano? (B)



#### DAY 10 ILL-FATED POMPEII AND ON TO SORRENTO

Journey south through the volcanic hills of Frascati to Pompeii.

Walk with a Local Expert through the preserved cobbled streets for a glimpse into the daily life of civilization during the Roman Empire. Follow the clifftop road to the resort town of Sorrento. (B)

#### Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

#### DAY 11 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

With your Local Expert, cruise to the Isle of Capri and ascend to Capri town by one of the island's iconic open-top taxis. Explore the narrow alleyways and descend to the port by funicular railway for the return to Sorrento. Later perhaps explore Positano on the Amalfi Coast. (B)

#### DAY 12 SASSI DI MATERA AND ALBEROBELLO

After breakfast, discover two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. First, visit Matera for an in-depth guided exploration of the extraordinary Sassi, ancient troglodyte dwellings and churches dug out of the rock. These are the most extensive example of their kind in the Mediterranean and were inhabited by about 20,000 people up until 1950. Matera was also used as the setting for the film 'The Passion of the Christ'.

Continue to Alberobello, the second UNESCO World Heritage Site and your home for the next two nights. (B) (DW)

#### Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello.



#### DAY 13 THE TRULLI OF ALBEROBELLO

**Relaxed Start.** With a Local Expert, admire the Trulli of Alberobello, circular structures with conical roofs, built from limestone and stacked without mortar. Later, perhaps explore Ostuni?

This evening you are welcomed into the home of a local for a freshly prepared meal, typical of the region. Dine with the family and learn more about their life. (B) (DW)

**KEY** 

12 travellers.

#### DAY 14 SICILY AND THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

Follow the shores of the Gulf of Taranto to the mountainous Calabria region. Travel along the Purple Coast and board your ferry bound for Sicily, continue to the Taormina Riviera. (B) (DW)

RG Naxos Hotel, Taormina.

# DAY 15 TAORMINA AND THE DAWN COAST OF EUROPE

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert for a visit to the Greek Theater, graced with the most spectacular of backdrops. Stroll on to the Palazzo Corvaja, Taormina's grandest building.

The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Mt. Etna? (B)

#### DAY 16 PALERMO, CAPITAL OF SICILY

Head to the Sicilian capital of Palermo. On arrival, your Local Expert will show you the highlights of the capital. Palermo Cathedral has been altered over the years and a venture inside will help you to appreciate the composite architectural styles. Next, head to the amazing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans, with its extraordinary interior completely covered in glittering 12th century mosaics.

Join your travelling companions and Travel Director at a local restaurant for an unforgettable Celebration Dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine. (B) (DW)

NH Palermo.

#### DAY 17 DEPART PALERMO

Your journey draws to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Palermo Falcone–Borsellino Airport at 06:00 and 08:00. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit some of the picturesque fishing villages. (Photo by @Insightanna, Day 4, Cinque Terre)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore this ancient Roman city with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Saniesideuhp, Day 10, Pompeii)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Adrmire the Trulli of Alberobello, UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a Local Expert. (Photo by @pollonlaura, Day 11, Capri)





| 2023                        | 2024                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>JAN  </b> 14               |
| <b>JUN</b> 04, 11, 18, 25   | MAR   03, 17, 24, 31          |
| JUL 02,09,16,23,30          | <b>APR</b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| AUG   06, 13, 20, 27        | MAY 05, 12, 19, 26            |
| SEP 03, 10, 17, 24          | <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23,    |
| <b>OCT</b> 01, 08, 29       | 30                            |
| NOV 12, 26                  | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| DEC 23, 27                  | <b>AUG</b> 04, 11, 18, 25     |
|                             | <b>SEP</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/epitaly

■ EASY PACE
ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

10 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 14 MEALS 8 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoes 4.7 GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums, witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Home-Hosted Welcome Dinner in Rome. • Highlight Dinner at the Vatican • Lunch at Fico food theme park • Dinner at il Poggio • Celebration Dinner in Venice.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

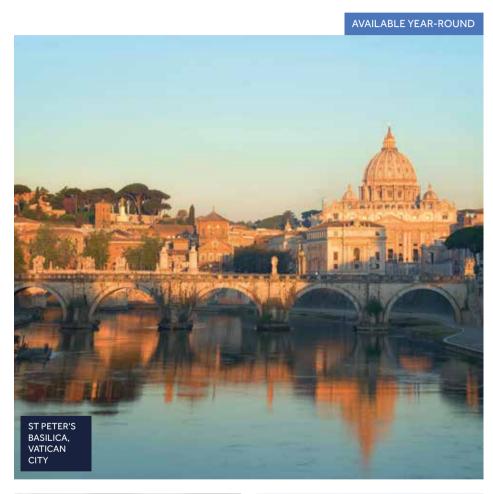
Travel by gondola, serenaded through the canals of Venice.

Visit Pisa.

City tours of Florence and Rome, both with Local Experts.

# EASY PACE

"Guests are always charmed by Roberto, our Local Expert in Pisa. He is a fantastic storyteller and linguist. He blends history and fun facts in a rapid-fire delivery that mesmerises everyone." **– Bradford, Travel Director** 





OLIVE OIL, ITALY



@MARGHERITA\_INSIGHT, ITALY

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Transfers to your hotel depart Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

At 17:30, join your Travel Director for a uniquely Roman Welcome Dinner. Get to know your travelling companions over a relaxed evening of dinner and wine, as you join your local host for a truly Italian, home-cooked meal. (DW)

#### Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome.

# DAY 2 ROME SIGHTSEEING AND DINNER IN THE VATICAN

Enjoy the very best of the city's highlights including visiting St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican with your Local Expert.

Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus famous for its chariot races, and the iconic Colosseum. In the afternoon, enjoy special fast-tracked entry into the Vatican Museums with a Local Expert. Admire the Papal art collection, before entering the Sistine Chapel to marvel at Michelangelo's masterpiece.

Dine in the Vatican's Cortile del Giardino Quadrato and enjoy incredible views of the cupola of St. Peter's during a private Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 3 ROME AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Spend another day enjoying Rome at your own pace. Stroll to the boutiques of the Via del Corso and Via Nazionale or visit the elegant designer stores near the Spanish Steps. Perhaps take an Optional Experience south to the ill-fated town of Pompeii? As night falls, why not sip a glass of prosecco at a sidewalk cafe in the Piazza Navona and enjoy the pageant of life all around you. (B)

#### DAY 4 ON TO FLORENCE

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{Relaxed Start.}}$  Drive to the Chianti Hills and the city of Florence. (B)

Hotel Roma, Florence.

# DAY 5 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Relaxed Start. Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer. Walk on to the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery to see Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria, an open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Famous for the quality of its luxury goods like gold and leather, Piazza Santa Croce is also the perfect spot to see the basilica. Later, use your free time to shop or continue exploring at your leisure. (B)

# DAY 6 PISA AND THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

**Relaxed Start.** After a leisurely morning in Florence, explore the nearby town of Pisa with a Local Expert. See the Leaning Tower, baptistery and the colonnaded bell tower, lurching out from behind the cathedral.

Visit the organic farm il Poggio and join a guided walk, exploring olive oil and wine production. After taking in beautiful views of the rolling Tuscan hills, enjoy tasting the farm's fine wines and olive oil, in addition to an authentic Italian meal prepared with locally sourced ingredients. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 7 ON TO VENICE

Today we travel through the Emilia-Romagna region, and stop to sample the flavours of the region and learn about Italian food culture over a delicious lunch with wine. Take the autostrada east to Venice, Queen of the Adriatic. Your luxurious hotel gazes out over the Giudecca Canal and an unforgettably romantic city skyline. (B) (LW)

#### Hilton Molino Stucky, Venice.

# DAY 8 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF 'LA SERENISSIMA'

Relaxed Start. Your private boat takes you past historic churches and 13th century palaces to St. Mark's Square. The first sight is the pink marble of the Doge's Palace, connected to the prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape. Turn the corner, and the gilded facade of St. Mark's Basilica comes into view. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills.

This afternoon there is plenty of time to explore the museums, galleries and churches or browse through the shops on the Rialto Bridge. (B)

#### DAY 9 VENICE AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Who could refuse another day to take in the unique atmosphere of this wonderful city? Lose yourself in the back lanes and quiet squares, where tourists seldom tread and the Venetians go about their daily lives. Maybe visit some of the 90 churches housing masterpieces of Venetian art or explore the modern artworks in the Guggenheim? Perhaps relax at a canal-side cafe sipping local wine or sample delicious lagoon-fresh fish?

Later, board a traditional gondola for a serenade through the romantic canals.

This evening, stroll past the entrance doors of the famous Opera House to La Fenice restaurant for a magical Celebration Dinner. Indulge in traditional Venetian dishes that are enriched with inspiration from seasonal produce. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 ARRIVEDERCI VENICE

Alas, you must bid farewell to this enchanting city. Your departure transfer arrives at Venice Marco Polo Airport at 08:00 and 09:30. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Travel by gondola and be serenaded on the canals of Venice. (Photo by @skinnylynny, Day 9, Venice)



| 2023                          | 2024                          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>MAR</b> 27                 | MAR 25                        |
| <b>APR  </b> 10, 17, 24       | <b>APR</b> 08, 15, 22, 29     |
| <b>MAY</b> 01,08,15,22,29     | MAY 06, 13, 20, 27            |
| <b>JUN</b> 05, 12, 19, 26     | <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24   |
| <b>JUL</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 | <b>JUL</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 |
| <b>AUG</b> 07, 14, 21, 28     | <b>AUG</b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| SEP 04, 11, 18, 25            | <b>SEP</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| <b>OCT  </b> 02, 09, 16       | <b>OCT  </b> 07, 14           |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/treasuresitl

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 15 MEALS 13 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Dine-Around options in Lake Maggiore • Celebration Dinner on Burano in Venice. Taste wine with a master vintner near Lake Iseo.

#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

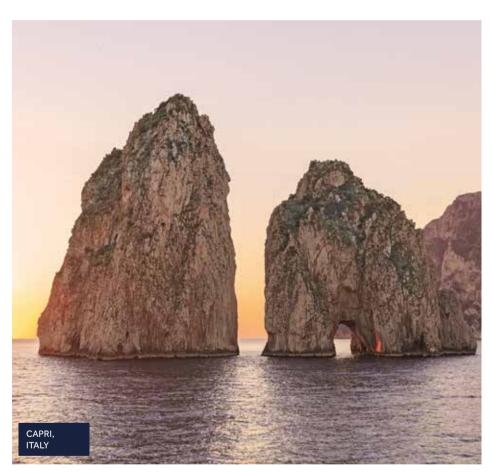
Travel by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride in an open-top taxi in Capri • travel through the Cinque Terre by boat and train • Cruise to Portofino from Santa Margherita • Ride a gondola in Venice.

Visit Augustus Gardens in Capri.

City tours of Rome, Pompeii, Isle of Capri, Florence and Cinque Terre, all with Local Experts.

# TREASURES OF ITALY

"One of the best aspects of this trip is the stay in Capri. To fully appreciate the beauty of the blue island, I think you need to spend the night and the early morning there." – Margherita, Travel Director





STATUE OF DAVID, FLORENCE



COLOSSEUM, ROME

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

#### DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

The day is devoted to the Eternal City. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth visit to the Vatican Museums. With Insight's special priority entry gain behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture, normally off-limits to visitors. Visit the Sistine Chapel, where Popes are elected, to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, to wonder at another of his works and stand beneath the dome completed after his death.

Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum, site of memorable battles and a legacy to the courage of gladiators. (B)

#### DAY 3 ANCIENT POMPEII & SORRENTO

Journey to the ill-fated town of Pompeii. Walk with a Local Expert through cobbled streets to learn about Roman life in the first century before enjoying a refreshing lemon granita. Continue to your hotel in Sorrento. The afternoon is yours to explore as you wish, or

perhaps join an Optional Experience to Positano? (B)

Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

#### DAY 4 THE ISLE OF DREAMS

Board your jetfoil to the Isle of Capri. Enjoy a scenic drive by open-top taxi past orange and lemon groves to your hotel.

Visit Capri town with its whitewashed houses, winding alleyways and small cafes. A Local Expert escorts you to the lush Gardens of Augustus for views of the Faraglioni rocks. As twilight descends and the day-trippers have returned to their mainland hotels, the island is yours to gather with locals in the piazzetta or relax with a glass of wine. (B)

#### Hotel Regina Cristina, Capri.

## DAY 5 THE AUTOSTRADA DEL SOLE TO FLORENCE

Descend to the port by private open-top taxis and take the jetfoil across the bay to Naples. Follow the Autostrada del Sole and continue through Umbria and idyllic Tuscan landscapes to Florence. (B) (DW)

#### NH Firenze, Florence.

## DAY 6 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer. Continue to the multi-coloured marble cathedral to admire Giotto's bell tower and Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria and explore the area around Santa Croce Basilica. After a demonstration of leatherwork, there's free time to shop or explore Florence on your own.

In the evening, why not sample fine Florentine cuisine of tasty starters and typical Tuscan dishes accompanied by Chianti wine? (B)

## DAY 7 CINQUE TERRE AND PORTOFINO TO SANTA MARGHERITA

The famous Italian Riviera and Cinque Terre are a highlight of your journey.

With a Local Expert, approach one of the fishing villages by boat and spend some time exploring the medieval quarter or the popular sandy beach before continuing to the village of Portofino, to admire the colourful houses. (B) (DW)

#### Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

#### **DAY 8** LAKE MAGGIORE

Journey to the beautiful Italian Lake District, where alpine scenery combines with lush subtropical vegetation. Enjoy time at leisure or perhaps cruise to the Borromean Islands?

Choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

## DAY 9 TO VENICE WITH WINE ALONG THE WAY

Follow the southern fringes of the Alps to the vineyards by the shores of Lake Iseo.

# Here, winemaking traditions run deep. Taste the delicious vintages produced with a master vintner at a family-owned estate.

Continue to the unique city of Venice and step back in time to the 16th century. (B)

#### Hilton Molino Stucky, Venice.

## DAY 10 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Your private boat takes you past historic churches and 13th century palaces to St. Mark's Square. The first sight is the pink marble of the Doge's Palace, connected to the prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. It was from here that Casanova made his daring escape. Turn the corner, and the gilded facade of St. Mark's Basilica comes into view. Afterwards, board a traditional gondola for a serenade along the romantic canals. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre. See how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills.

Cruise the Venetian lagoon to Burano and sit down to a sumptuous Celebration Dinner with wine, sampling the local specialties. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 11** ARRIVEDERCI VENICE

Alas, you must bid farewell to this enchanting city. Your departure transfer arrives at Venice Marco Polo Airport at 08:00 and 09:30. (B)







**TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** See the picturesque fishing village of Burano (*Photo by @skinnylynny, Day 10, Burano*)



| 2023                       | 2024                          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 21,28           | <b>APR  </b> 19, 26           |
| MAY 05, 12, 19, 26         | <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| 30                         | <b>JUL</b> 12, 26             |
| <b>JUL </b> 14,28          | AUG 09, 16, 23, 30            |
| AUG   11, 18, 25           | <b>SEP</b> 06, 13, 20, 27     |
| SEP 01,08,15,22,29         | <b>OCT</b>  04                |
| <b>ОСТ  </b> 06            |                               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/itlelegance** 

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

12 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 18 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums, witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Highlight Dinner in the Vatican • Celebration Dinner in Venice

Taste prosecco in Veneto • Anise bread in Lucca • Gelato in San Gimignano.

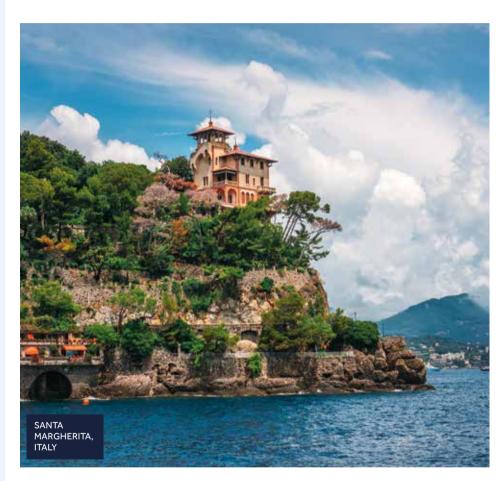
#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

Cruise from Santa Margherita to Portofino • Travel from the Cinque Terre by train • Ride a gondola in Venice.

City tours of Rome, Florence and Cinque Terre, all with Local Experts.

# ITALIAN ELEGANCE

"A memorable moment from this trip is in San Gimignano. Guests always love to meet the charismatic Sergio Dondoli, a master of making gelato." **– Lorena, Travel Director** 





SERGIO DONDOLI, SAN GIMIGNANO



PORTOFINO

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome.

#### DAY 2 ROME WITH VATICAN DINNER

Enjoy the best of the city's highlights with a visit to St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and see the Colosseum and Circus Maximus. In the afternoon, gain fast-tracked priority entry into the Vatican Museums with a Local Expert. Admire the Papal art collection and observe the stunning Museo Gregoriano Profano before entering the Sistine Chapel.

#### Dine in the Vatican's Cortile del Giardino Quadrato and enjoy incredible views of the cupola of St. Peter's during a private Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 3** RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer. See the cathedral, campanile and baptistery, adorned with the Gates of Paradise. Wander the open-air gallery of Piazza della Signoria before enjoying time at leisure.

Continue to your elegant hotel in the picturesque town of Radda in Chianti. (B) (DW)

#### Villasanpaolo, San Gimignano.

#### DAY 4 THE FLAVOURS OF SAN GIMIGNANO

**Relaxed Start.** Journey across the rich Tuscan countryside to the hilltop village of San Gimignano, famous for its medieval towers. Spend time exploring the maze of alleyways and admire scenic views across the valley.

Meet world champion gelato maestro, Sergio Dondoli, for a taste of his finest frozen treats.

### Stop at a local winery to sample robust Tuscan wines. (B)

#### CDH Hotel Radda, Tuscany.

#### DAY 5 PISA AND LUCCA

Drive through the Chianti hills and head to Lucca. Taste the lavish loaves of buccellato, Lucca's sweet raisin anise bread.

Continue to Pisa to see the incredible Leaning Tower and the splendid cathedral and baptistery. Enjoy leisure time to explore. Relax as you journey along the coast to the resort of Santa Margherita Ligure. (B) (DW)

#### Best Western Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure.

#### DAY 6 THE CINQUE TERRE AND PORTOFINO

Head for the port of La Spezia for a highlight of your travels and one of Italy's most beautiful landscapes, the Cinque Terre. With a Local Expert, appreciate the views as you approach one of the picturesque fishing villages by boat. For lunch, enjoy a delicious Sea-to-Table dining experience. Next, cruise along the rugged Ligurian coast to the elegant seaside village of Portofino, the epitome of la dolce vita (should weather permit). Enjoy leisure time to admire the coloured houses, browse the boutiques or simply stay a while in the cafe bars on the piazzetta, watching the yachts moored in the harbour. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 7 LAKE MAGGIORE

**Relaxed Start.** Head north to the beautiful Italian Lake District, a favourite retreat of the rich and famous where Alpine scenery combines with lush vegetation. Relax and enjoy an afternoon at leisure at this popular resort and beautiful lake. (B)

#### Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

#### DAY 8 CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

Travel through the stunning northern Italian countryside to one of the world's most breathtaking wine regions. Protected by the Alps to the north, and caressed by the warm breezes from the Adriatic, the vineyards around Conegliano Veneto produce Italy's most prized sparkling wine.

Stop at Carmina where great care is taken to ensure these hand-picked grapes produce the world's

finest prosecco. See how production differs from its more famous French counterpart, champagne. Be tempted with a taste of the crisp and aromatic flavours and learn how to make the perfect bellini. Continue through the Dolomites, to the mountain resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel de la Poste, Cortina d'Ampezzo.

#### **DAY 9** EXPERIENCE THE DOLOMITES

**Relaxed Start.** The whole day is free for you to explore the colourful peaks and sheer valleys of the Dolomites. There are a number of walking tracks to explore, or perhaps take a thrilling Optional Experience to the summit of one of the peaks for breathtaking panoramic views? (B)

#### DAY 10 VENICE, QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC

**Relaxed Start.** Descend through the mountains to the romantic city of Venice.

A private boat glides you past canals lined with ornate palaces to St Mark's Square. See the basilica, the Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs, before checking into your luxurious hotel. With the afternoon at leisure, why not cruise the Venetian Lagoon to the island of Burano? (B)

#### Splendid Venice - Starhotels Collezione.

#### DAY 11 VENICE AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills.

Then there is free time to enjoy the magical atmosphere of this incredible city at your own pace. Later, on your romantic gondola serenade, glide along the atmospheric canals while musicians set the mood with traditional songs.

This evening, stroll past the famous Opera House to La Fenice restaurant for a magical Celebration Dinner. Indulge in traditional Venetian dishes that are enriched with inspiration from seasonal produce. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 ARRIVEDERCI VENICE

Your departure transfer arrives at Venice Marco Polo Airport at 08:00 and 09:30. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See the mighty Colosseum. (Photo by @Insightsharon, Day 2, Rome)





| 2023                      | 2024                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 04, 11, 18, 25 | <b>APR</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| MAY 02,09,16,23,30        | MAY 07, 14, 21, 28            |
| <b>JUN</b> 06, 13, 20, 27 | <b>JUN</b> 04, 11, 18, 25     |
| <b>JUL</b> 04, 11, 18, 25 | <b>JUL</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| AUG 01,08,15,22,29        | AUG 06, 13, 20, 27            |
| SEP 05, 12, 19, 26        | SEP 03, 10, 17, 24            |
| <b>OCT  </b> 03, 10       | <b>OCT</b>  01,08             |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/itlescapade

REGIONAL JOURNEY
 ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 ALANCED
 ACTIVITY
 ACTIVITY

13 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Bistecca alla Fiorentina Dinner with wine in Florence • Dine-Around options in Lake Maggiore • Celebration Dinner in Rome.

Taste wine near Lake Iseo.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

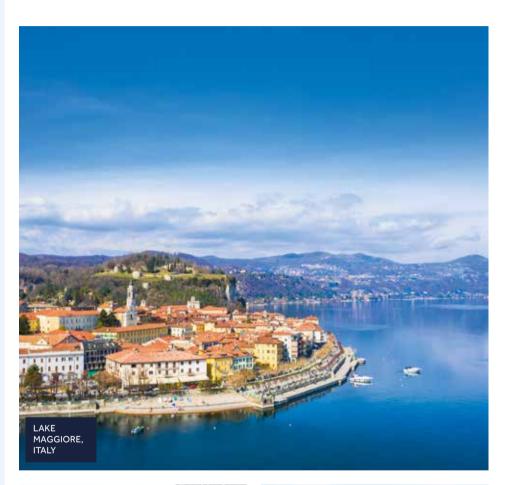
Travel by gondola, serenaded through the canals of Venice • Hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride in an open-top taxi on Capri.

Visit the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

City tours of Rome, Florence, Assisi, Isle of Capri and Pompeii, all with Local Experts.

# ITALIAN ESCAPADE

"Guests enjoy meeting our Local Expert in Florence, who shows you the secret carvings on the statue of David by Michelangelo." – Lorena, Travel Director





@VINDINDIEZEL, VENICE



THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hotel Romanico Palace, Rome.

# DAY 2 VATICAN CITY AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

A Local Expert leads you through the priceless art collection of the Vatican Museums, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Your priority visit includes fasttracked entry to the museums and a behind-thescenes look at the Bramante Staircase. Later, continue to St. Peter's Basilica and cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome.

See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum. (B)

#### DAY 3 SIENA AND MEDIEVAL FLORENCE

In medieval Siena, stroll through the winding stone-paved streets to the vast Piazza del Campo. See the Fountain of Joy and walk up to the hilltop cathedral, striped with marble. Continue through the cypress-clad hills and vineyards of Tuscany to Florence.

Enjoy a traditional Bistecca alla Fiorentina steak dinner paired with delicious local wine, a specialty not to be missed. (B) (DW)

#### Michelangelo Florence.

12 travellers.

## DAY 4 FLORENCE, BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Explore Florence with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum with an art historian guide and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and finery on offer.

Walk on to the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery to see Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria, an open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces. Famous for the quality of its luxury goods like gold and leather, Piazza Santa Croce is also the perfect spot to see the basilica. Later, use your free time to shop or continue exploring at your leisure. (B)

#### DAY 5 PISA AND THE ITALIAN LAKES

Stop in Pisa, to see the incredible Leaning Tower. See the splendid cathedral and baptistery, decorated with mosaics and designs of solid marble. (B)

Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

#### DAY 6 THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

**Relaxed Start.** Today is set aside for you to relax and enjoy all the fantastic sights of this beautiful lakeland area.

For your Dine-Around Evening, choose from a selection of hand-picked restaurants for your dining pleasure. (B) (DW)

# $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{DAY 7} \text{ to venice with wine along the} \\ \textbf{way} \end{array}$

**Relaxed Start.** Follow the southern fringes of the European Alps to the vineyards by the shores of Lake Iseo. Here, winemaking traditions run deep.

Taste the delicious vintages produced with a master vintner at a family-owned estate.

Continue to the unique city of Venice and step back in time to the 16th century. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal, Venice.

#### DAY 8 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

A private boat ferries you to St. Mark's Square. See the basilica, Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. Enjoy being serenaded with traditional songs on a gondola ride, gliding through the city canals in romantic awe. (B)

#### DAY 9 HILLTOP ASSISI

Journey to the stone-built, hilltop town of Assisi, home of St. Francis.

See the Church of St. Mary of the Angels, before continuing up Mount Subasio with a Local Expert to visit the Basilica of St. Francis. (B) (DW)

Hotel Giotto Assisi.

#### DAY 10 SORRENTO ON THE COAST

Journey along the clifftop road to the picturesque resort of Sorrento, perched upon the southern cliffs of the Bay of Naples and looking out to Mount Vesuvius.

With the evening at leisure, why not try some of the local specialties during a regional dining experience? (B)

#### Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

#### DAY 11 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

Cruise to Capri and on arrival step into one of the island's iconic open-top taxis for a drive up the steep, winding roads while a symphony of cicadas sing away in the pines.

Your Local Expert leads you through the narrow alleyways of Capri town, before you descend to the port by funicular and return to Sorrento for some relaxation time. Perhaps join an optional visit to Positano and the Amalfi Coast? (B) (DW)

## DAY 12 ON TO ILL-FATED POMPEII AND ROME

At the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, your Local Expert walks you through cobbled streets. Witness the colourful frescoes that were hidden for centuries.

Travel past the striking hilltop monastery of Monte Cassino on your return to Rome.

In the heart of The Eternal City, you are treated to a quintessential Italian experience. Fine food, wine, music and a private performance of enchanting operetta for your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### Bettoja Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio, Rome.

#### DAY 13 ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30. (B)

**KEY** ∛ Join/Leave Options 命员 LAKE AGGIORE 2 ⊞UNESCO VENICE (Days 7 & 8) Heritage Site Lake Iseo 1 Central ITALY Hotels + Nights 俞 1) Scenic FLORENCE Hotels + Nights (Days 3 & 4) 2 Place Visited ∰ Pisa ⑪ 俞 ASSISI O Optional Place Visited Siena Day 9 🛱 Cruise 気気 20 **CHOOSE YOUR** ⑪ **GROUP SIZE** ROME & THE VATICAN CITY Cassino This trip operates (Davs 1, 2, 12 & 13) Pompeii both classic and small Amalfi O Coast group departures. (2) **₫**• You can also book SORRENTO (Days 10 & 11) vour own private Capri group with as few as





OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE Cruise Lake Maggiore to explore the Barromean Islands. (Photo by @Konyoqueen, Day 5, Lake Maggiore)



| 2023               | 2024                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| APR   15, 22, 29   | <b>APR  </b> 13, 20, 27 |
| MAY 06, 13, 20, 27 | MAY 04, 11, 18, 25      |
| <b>JUN</b> 10, 24  | <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22     |
| <b>JUL</b> 08, 22  | JUL 06, 20              |
| AUG 05, 19         | <b>AUG</b> 03, 17, 31   |
| SEP 02,09,16,23,30 | SEP 07, 14, 21, 28      |
| <b>OCT </b> 07     | <b>OCT</b>  05          |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crsouthernitl

#### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

14 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 20 MEALS 13 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Alberobello: Dine at Trattoria Terra Madre, where owner Alessandro and his nonna have built a restaurant that focuses on sustainability and creating jobs for locals. Everything is grown organically and harvested on site, and excess produce is donated to their community.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Capri:** Choose to visit the exquisite Gardens of Augustus with a Local Expert. Alternatively, indulge with a limoncello tasting, Capri's renowned lemon liqueur.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Dine-Around options in Taormina Riviera • Celebration Dinner in Palermo.

#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

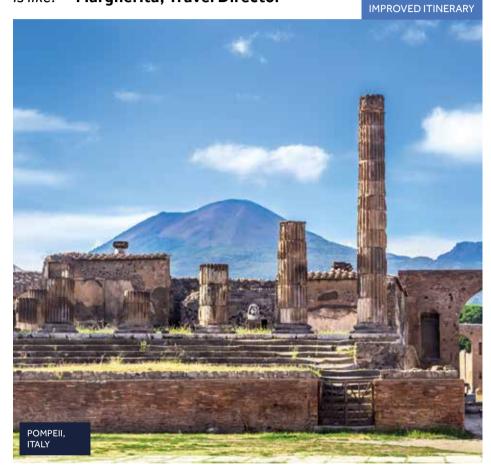
Travel by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri • Ride an open-top taxi on Capri • Ride a ferry across the Strait of Messina.

Visit the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento • Greek Ampitheatre of Taormina • Palermo Cathedral and Palatine Chapel in Palermo.

City tours of Rome, Pompeii, Isle of Capri, Matera, Alberobello, Taormina, Agrigento and Palermo, all with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY

"This trip is the perfect combination of must-see places and a discovery of striking, hidden gems that most people have never visited, but that hold the real magic of what genuine southern Italy is like." – Margherita, Travel Director







(a) ALYCIA\_PAPDOPOLOS, ALBEROBELLO

FARM-TO-TABLE, ALBEROBELLO

A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE

98

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

#### Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Golden Tulip Rome Piram.

#### DAY 2 ROME WITH THE LOCALS

Rome is about art, antiquity, piazzas and pizza, and our guided walk with a Local Expert has it in abundance. Toss a coin into the spectacular Trevi Fountain, see the Pantheon, the best-preserved monument from the Roman period, and enjoy free time to do as the Romans do.

Perhaps join a tour to discover the incredibly characteristic Roman quarter of Trastevere? (B)

#### DAY 3 VIP VATICAN, ST. PETER'S BASILICA AND ON TO SORRENTO

Meet your Local Expert for a guided visit through the Vatican Museums, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. Your priority visit includes fast-tracked entry and a behind-the-scenes look at the Bramante Staircase. Continue your visit to St. Peter's Basilica and later, depart for Sorrento. (B)

#### Hotel Isabella, Sorrento.

#### DAY 4 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

Cruise by jetfoil across the impossibly blue sea to the sun-drenched island of Capri. On arrival, enjoy an escorted ride in an open-top taxi to Capri Town and meet your Local Expert for an orientation walk through narrow alleyways. Explore Capri with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the immaculate Gardens of Augustus with a Local Expert and admire the views over Faraglioni Rocks. Alternatively, enjoy a tasting of limoncello, Capri's famous lemon liqueur. Descend to the port by funicular, before returning to Sorrento where you are at leisure for the rest of the day. (B)

#### DAY 5 POMPEII AND ALBEROBELLO

With your Local Expert, explore the streets of Pompeii, buried in A.D. 79 by the historic eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Venture on to Alberobello. (B) (DW)

#### Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri, Alberobello.

#### DAY 6 THE TRULLI OF ALBEROBELLO

Relaxed Start. With a Local Expert, admire the Trulli of Alberobello, circular structures with conical roofs, built from limestone and stacked without mortar.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at Trattoria Terra Madre. Alessandro, the owner, shares his philosophy of using home-grown organic and seasonal produce. See Nonna making orecchiette pasta during a demonstration, before a delicious four-course, Farm-to-Table Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 7 ALBEROBELLO AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** The day is free for you to enjoy this fascinating town. Perhaps visit Ostuni with its whitewashed buildings and narrow cobbled streets? (B)

#### DAY 8 JOURNEY SOUTH TO MATERA

**Relaxed Start.** Visit Matera with a Local Expert for an in-depth exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi. This intricate labyrinth of cave dwellings, churches, staircases and arches was hewn out of solid rock. (B) (DW)

#### MH Matera Hotel.

## DAY 9 TO SICILY AND THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

Travel to the very toe of Italy and board your ferry bound for Sicily, across the Strait of Messina. Join a Local Expert for a visit to the Greek Theater of Taormina, graced with the most spectacular of backdrops. Take your pick of specially selected restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

#### RG Naxos Hotel, Taormina.

# DAY 10 FREE TIME ON THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

**Relaxed Start.** The day is at leisure to relax at your resort's private beach. Don't miss the chance of an optional drive through the national park to Mount Etna. (B)

#### DAY 11 A NEW DAWN IN SICILY

**Relaxed Start.** Early risers may experience what D.H. Lawrence christened the 'dawn coast of Europe.' The day is free to explore Taormina at your leisure, or to embark on an Optional Experience to Syracuse.

In the evening, venture to a local restaurant for a tasty meal accompanied by wine. (B) (DW)

## DAY 12 AGRIGENTO, THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES AND ON TO PALERMO

Drive to Agrigento and walk along the fortified ridge of the Valley of the Temples with a Local Expert. See the massive Temple of Concord and clifftop Temple of Juno, overlooking the sea. In the afternoon, continue to the Sicilian capital of Palermo. (B)

NH Palermo.

## DAY 13 PALERMO AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE NORMANS

Join a historian on a guided walk to see the gems of the old city. Venture inside Palermo Cathedral and see the amazing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans.

The afternoon is free to explore on your own.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers at a local restaurant for a Celebration Dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 DEPART PALERMO

Your journey draws to an end. Departure transfers arrive at Palermo Falcone–Borsellino Airport at 06:00 and 08:00. (B)





| 2023   | 2024   |
|--|--|
| <b>APR</b> 14, 21, 28  | <b>APR</b>   12, 19, 26  |
| MAY 05, 12, 19, 26   | <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24  |
| <b>JUN</b> 09, 30  | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 28  |
| <b>JUL</b>  28   | <b>JUL</b>  26   |
| AUG   18, 25   | AUG   16, 23, 30   |
| SEP 01,08,15,22,29   | SEP 06, 13, 20, 27   |
| <b>ОСТ</b>  06   | <b>OCT </b> 04   |
| JUN 09, 30<br>JUL 28<br>AUG 18, 25<br>SEP 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | JUN   07, 28<br>JUL   26<br>AUG   16, 23, 30<br>SEP   06, 13, 20, 27 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/critaly

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

16 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 20 MEALS 27 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Perugia:** Meet Marta, a recipient of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Learn how she offers employment opportunities for local women and alongside her weavers, preserves the ancient craft of loom-weaving in an artisan workshop.

Visit a glassblowing workshop in Venice.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Siena:** Choose to visit the medieval Siena Cathedral with your Local Expert. Alternatively, sample panforte, a traditional Tuscan dessert.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Rome • Highlight Dinner in Orvieto • Celebration Dinner on Burano island in Venice.

Taste Chianti wine in Radda • Gelato in San Gimignano • Buccellato in Lucca • Balsamic vinegar in Modena • Parmigiano Reggiano in Parma.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri and ride in an open-top taxi • Explore Cinque Terre by boat • Glide along the Venice canals in a gondola.

Visit Papal Gardens and Castel Gandolfo • Positano • Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi • San Gimignano.

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# COUNTRY ROADS OF ITALY

"I love to teach my guests an Italian expression, 'Il sole bacia i belli,' which means 'the sun kisses the beautiful ones,' and can also be translated as 'the sunshine renders us all beautiful.'" – Anna, Travel Director





(O) @LINDA\_JACKSON, PARMA



(O) @ALANSPORTSCAMMAN, BURANO

# DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Welcome to Rome, a glorious city filled with classic antiquities, medieval buildings, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Transfers depart from Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 17:30, and get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome.

#### DAY 2 VATICAN AND ROME WITH A LOCAL

Today is devoted to The Eternal City. Join a Local Expert for an in-depth visit to the Vatican Museums. With Insight's special priority entry, gain behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture, normally off-limits to visitors. Visit the Sistine Chapel, where the Popes are elected, to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, to admire another of his works and stand beneath the dome completed after his death. Cross the Tiber river to enjoy views of ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum. (B)

#### DAY 3 CASTEL GANDOLFO

Venture to Castel Gandolfo to explore the artistic treasure of the Villa Barberini Gardens. Ride an electric train along the pathways to marvel at the intricately designed mosaic flower beds and fountains.

Continue to the resort town of Sorrento. (B)

Majestic Palace Hotel, Sorrento.

#### DAY 4 CAPRI, THE ISLE OF DREAMS

With your Local Expert, cruise to the Isle of Capri and ascend to Capri town by one of the island's iconic open-top taxis. Explore the narrow alleyways and descend to the port by funicular railway for the return to Sorrento. (B)

#### DAY 5 THE PICTURESQUE AMALFI COAST

Board minibuses and travel along the Amalfi Coast to Positano, famous for its terraced houses. (B)

#### DAY 6 POMPEII AND ORVIETO

Journey to the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and explore with your Local Expert. Savour the distinctly medieval ambiance of Orvieto during your orientation.

In the evening, enjoy a Highlight Dinner at a local restaurant with a glass of Orvieto Classico wine. (B) (DW)

#### Aquila Bianca Hotel, Orvieto.

#### DAY 7 ASSISI AND ON TO PERUGIA

**Relaxed Start.** On arrival in Assisi, see the church of St. Mary of the Angels and visit the huge Basilica of St. Francis. A Local Expert walks with you down the Via San Francesco.

Continue to Perugia for a guided exploration through the Old Town.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit an artisanal workshop and meet Marta, a recipient of a TreadRight Foundation grant. (B)

Sangallo Palace Hotel, Perugia.

#### DAY 8 PERUGIA, THE JEWEL OF UMBRIA

**Relaxed Start.** The entire day is at leisure for you to explore this gem of a town on your own. (B)

#### DAY 9 SIENA AND RADDA IN CHIANTI

**Relaxed Start.** Explore Siena with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the medieval Cathedral. Alternatively, sample panforte, a traditional Tuscan dessert.

Enjoy a delicious exploration of Tuscany's red wines, discovering their robust flavours and absorbing history. (B) (DW)

#### CDH Hotel Radda, Tuscany.

#### **DAY 10** RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

Walk through Renaissance Florence with a Local Expert to see the marble-clad cathedral, bell tower and Gates of Paradise on the baptistery.



See the area around Santa Croce Basilica, famous for the quality of its luxury goods. In the afternoon, return to the tranquil surroundings of your hotel. (B)

## DAY 11 SAN GIMIGNANO AND ON TO LUCCA

**Relaxed Start.** Visit the hilltop town of San Gimignano. Enjoy a tasting with award-winning, master gelato maker, Sergio Dondoli.

Continue to Lucca, a city perfectly preserved within encircling medieval ramparts.

Taste the lavish loaves of buccellato, Lucca's sweet raisin anise bread.

Later, perhaps explore Pisa? (B) (DW)

Hotel Villa La Principessa, Lucca.

#### DAY 12 EXPLORING THE CINQUE TERRE

Get ready to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cinque Terre.

Join a Local Expert in one of the picturesque fishing villages, before cruising along the rugged coastline. (B)

#### DAY 13 MODENA AND ON TO PARMA

Modena is famed the world over for its artisan balsamic vinegar.

#### Visit a local producer to understand what makes this vinegar as expensive as top-rated wine, and enjoy a tasting.

Journey onward to Parma, where you'll meet Paolo and learn about the process of making Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Taste samples of the famous Parmigiano-Reggiano, accompanied by a glass of wine. (B)

Starhotels Du Parc, Parma.

#### DAY 14 ONTO VENICE

Continue to Venice where you will be serenaded through the atmospheric canals as you glide by gondola, past water-lapped doorways and rococo palaces. (B)

Hilton Molino Stucky Venice.

#### DAY 15 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. Visit St. Mark's Square to admire St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace and the adjoining Bridge of Sighs.

Cruise the Venetian Lagoon to Burano and sit down to a sumptuous Celebration Dinner with wine, sampling the local specialties. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 16 ARRIVEDERCI VENICE

Your departure transfer arrives at Venice Marco Polo Airport at 08:00 and 09:30. (B)



| 2023                          | 2024                          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 02,09,16,23,30     | MAR   10, 17, 24, 31          |
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| <b>JUN</b> 04, 11, 18, 25     | MAY 05, 12, 19, 26            |
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| SEP 03, 10, 17, 24            | AUG 04, 11, 18, 25            |
| <b>OCT</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | <b>SEP</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 |
| NOV 12                        | <b>OCT</b> 06, 13, 20, 27     |
| <b>DEC</b> 21, 28             |                               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/intermezzo

Winter Departures have an alternative itinerary.

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **DYNAMIC** 

8 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 10 MEALS 11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoes 4.6<sup>/5</sup>

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums, witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Florence: Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Vatican City: This evening, indulge in a special Highlight Dinner hosted inside the galleries of the Vatican's Anima Mundi Museum.

Welcome Dinner at L'antica Riva in Como. Taste wine in Florence.

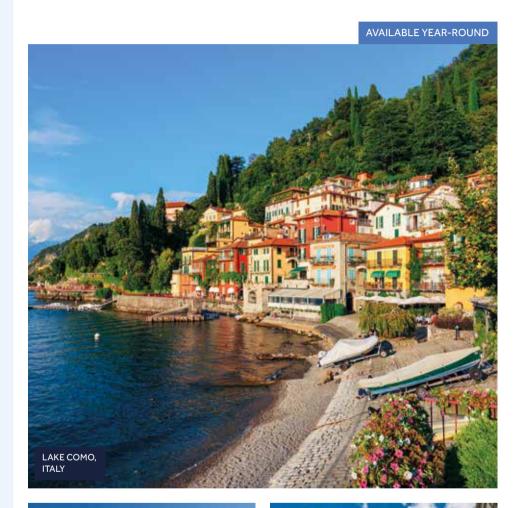
#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by gondola, serenaded through the canals of Venice.

Visit Pisa • Piazza del Duomo in Orvieto.

# ITALIAN INTERMEZZO

"I love to teach my guests the Italian phrase, 'che bello,' which means 'how beautiful!' It really sums Italy up, as everywhere you look there is beauty: in the landscape, architecture, art and fashion." **– Sara, Travel Director** 





VENICE



FLORENCE

#### DAY 1 ELEGANT COMO

Welcome to Italy. After being greeted by your Travel Director at Milan's Malpensa Airport, your transfer departs at 09:30 or 12:30.

Join your Travel Director at 17:30 and head to L'antica Riva, an elegant restaurant on the shores of Lake Como, known for serving delicious fresh produce. Your Welcome Dinner provides the opportunity to mingle and get to know your fellow travellers over a pleasant evening. (DW)

#### Palace Hotel, Como.

# DAY 2 VENICE, THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC

**Relaxed Start.** Journey through the beautiful Italian lake district, past Lakes Iseo and Garda to the floating city of Venice, Queen of the Adriatic. Your hotel offers authentic Venetian charm, as it reflects the history and culture of the surrounding area. As night falls, why not savour the magic of St. Mark's square with its orchestras and al-fresco cafes? (B)

#### Hotel Indigo Venice - Sant'Elena.

# DAY 3 VENICE AND THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Wake up ready to embrace this romantic city. What better way to see Venice than from a private boat, cruising past palazzos and churches to St. Mark's Square? See the gilded basilica, the Doge's Palace and Lord Byron's Bridge of Sighs. No visit to Venice would be complete without a gondola serenade through the myriad of beautiful canals. Relax and enjoy the local traditional songs, as you drift along in awe.

While here, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills.

Spend the afternoon and evening as you wish or join an Optional Experience to the island of Burano, famous for its colourful houses and enjoy a delicious meal of local specialties. (B)

# DAY 4 TRANQUIL TUSCANY, PISA AND FLORENCE

Journey to Pisa and see the Leaning Tower in the Square of Miracles. Later, visit the 11th century cathedral and baptistery.

Continue to Florence and start your explorations with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo's David. Alternatively, wander through the market stalls on a shopping tour, enjoying all the Italian treats and

finery on offer. With your Local Expert, admire the marble-clad Cathedral and Baptistery, and stroll around Piazza

della Signoria, an open-air gallery filled with Renaissance sculptures. Enjoy tasting a selection of the finest wines of

Tuscany, followed by Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Albani Firenze, Florence.

# DAY 5 FREE TIME IN RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

Relaxed Start. Learn the secrets of traditional Florentine leatherwork when you visit a local workshop to admire the intricate work. The rest of the day is free for you to fully immerse yourself in the Tuscan capital. Perhaps shop for leather or gold goods around Santa Croce or relax and soak up the atmosphere in one of the many street cafés? Be sure not to miss the magnificent museums and galleries that house some of the most famous works of art in the world. In the evening, enjoy an opportunity to sample the true flavours of the region with a sumptuous optional Tuscan dinner, served with local wine. (B)

# DAY 6 CHIANTI COUNTRY TO ORVIETO AND ON TO ROME

Journey to Umbrian Orvieto, a hilltop village overlooking a vineyard-covered plain. Explore the town with your Travel Director and visit Piazza del Duomo to admire the cathedral, before continuing towards the Eternal City of Rome. In the evening, why not throw your coin into the Trevi Fountain to ensure your return to the city? (B)

Ω£

VENICE

#### Radisson Blu GHR Rome.

LAKE COMO

ITALY

) Pisa

1)(Day 1)

S.

MILĂN

# DAY 7 ROME SIGHTSEEING AND DINNER IN THE VATICAN

In the morning, enjoy the very best of the city's highlights, including visiting the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Cross the Tiber river to enjoy ancient Rome. See the incredible Circus Maximus and the legendary Colosseum, site of memorable battles and a monument to the courage of gladiators. In the afternoon, gain exclusive priority entry to the Vatican Museums with a Local Expert. Admire the Papal art collection and visit the breathtaking Sistine Chapel to marvel at Michelangelo's ceiling masterpiece.

This evening, indulge in a special Highlight Dinner hosted inside the galleries of the Vatican's Anima Mundi Museum (B) (DW)

#### DAY 8 ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30. (B)







TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore hilltop Orvieto, in the heart of Umbria. (Photo by @billyboy22, Day 6, Orvieto)



**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site

Central

Place Visited

(1) Scenic

🛱 Cruise

∜ Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





(Days 4

2



| 2023                      | 2024                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   14, 21, 28   | APR   12, 19, 26            |
| MAY 05, 12, 19, 26        | <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24,  |
| JUN 02,09,16,23,          | 31                          |
| 30                        | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| <b>JUL</b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | JUL 05, 12, 19, 26          |
| AUG 04, 11, 18, 25        | <b>AUG</b> 02, 09, 16, 23,  |
| <b>SEP</b> 01,08,15,22,29 | 30                          |
| <b>OCT</b> 06, 13, 20, 27 | SEP 06, 13, 20, 27          |
| 001100,13,20,27           | <b>OCT</b> 04, 11, 18, 25   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/sicilyindepth

Choose to extend your stay in Malta for 6 nights.

® REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

8 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 12 MEALS 9 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e9</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Marsala:** Enjoy a tasting of some of the island's richest Sicilian wines at Baglio Donna France. The estate uses sustainable farming practices, cultivates rare ancient grains and uses water management systems to reduce waste.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Palermo:** Choose to visit the spectacular Arab-Norman Monreale Cathedral with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join your Local Expert on a walk through the lively Vucciria market.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Catania • Dine-Around options in Palermo • Farm-to-Table dinner in the Taormina Riviera.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Paradise Quarry and the Old City of Ortygia in Syracuse • Valley of the Temples in Agrigento • Palermo Cathedral • Greek Ampitheatre in Taormina Riviera.

City tours of Syracuse, Agrigento, Palermo, Taormina, all with Local Experts.

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# SICILY IN DEPTH WITH MALTA OPTION

"I really love introducing my guests to the street food of Sicily because it reveals so much about the local lifestyle. Some favourites are arancini, gelato, cannoli, or a slice of pizza folded up." – Elena, Travel Director





OLIVE TREES, SICILY



THE GREEK THEATRE, TAORMINA

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO SICILY

On arrival at Catania airport, transfers leave for your hotel at 10:00, 12:30 and 15:30.

Relax and settle in before meeting your Travel Director at 17:30, for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

NH Catania Centro.

#### **DAY 2** ANCIENT SYRACUSE

Your Local Expert takes you to Syracuse's Paradise Quarry with its Ear of Dionysius, an ear-shaped grotto with an unusual echo. Continue to the superb Greek theater, one of the largest of the ancient world.

There is time to explore the Old City, a maze of narrow streets lined with palaces. Continue around the southeastern corner of Sicily to Ragusa. (B)

Mediterraneo Palace, Ragusa.

# DAY 3 EXPLORE THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES AND ON TO PALERMO

Journey along the southern coast of the island to Agrigento, and explore the Valley of the Temples with a Local Expert. See the massive Temple of Concordia and the clifftop Temple of Juno overlooking the sea.

Your travels continue to the Sicilian capital of Palermo. (B) (DW)

#### NH Palermo.

# DAY 4 PALERMO & THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE NORMANS

Explore Palermo with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the spectacular Arab-Norman Monreale Cathedral with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a walk through the lively market.

This afternoon, visit Palermo Cathedral and observe its unique blend of architectural styles.

For your dining pleasure, you are offered a selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around Evening, each with its own ambience and cuisine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 5 EXPLORING ERICE

Venture to the charming hilltop walled town of Erice and explore the labyrinth of quiet alleyways. Pause to enjoy the sea views from the gardens alongside the Castle of Venus.

# Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in the countryside near Marsala, during a tasting of rich Sicilian wines.

The estate uses sustainable farming practices, cultivates rare ancient grains and uses water management systems to reduce waste. Back in Palermo the evening is at your leisure. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 6 CEFALU AND THE TAORMINA RIVIERA

Travel to the quaint fishing town of Cefalu. See the imposing cathedral, stroll to the stone fountain and seek out the Gothic arch of the Porta Marina for a picture-perfect view of the harbour. (B)

#### RG Naxos Hotel, Taormina.

# DAY 7 TAORMINA AND THE DAWN COAST OF EUROPE

**Relaxed Start.** Early risers may experience why D.H. Lawrence christened this 'The Dawn Coast of Europe.' Perhaps take an Optional Experience to Mount Etna?

Visit the old town, clinging to the side of Mount Tauro with sea and mountain views. With your Local Expert, visit the Greek theater and absorb the view. Stroll to Palazzo Corvaja and along the Corso Umberto to the Piazza IX Aprile.

At a local restaurant, rejoice with your newfound friends over your Celebration Dinner of delicious, freshly prepared Farm-to-Table cuisine, accompanied by exquisite Italian wines. (B) (DW)

# DAY 8 DEPART CATANIA OR CONTINUE TO MALTA

Transfers arrive at Catania airport at 06:30 and 08:30. Guests continuing to Malta are transferred to the airport for their included flight. (B)

#### WITH MALTA OPTION

#### DAY 8 WELCOME TO MALTA

Transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax and settle into your hotel.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Highlight Dinner with wine. (DW)

Waterfront Hotel, Sliema.

#### **DAY 9** SOUTHERN DELIGHTS

**Relaxed Start.** Venture south to Valletta with a Local Expert to visit the Upper Barrakka Gardens and St. John's Cathedral, designed in a baroque fashion.

For lunch, feast on a delicious meal made from fresh local ingredients.

Visit the National War Museum and learn about Malta's important role in WWII with a fascinating lecture from an historian. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 10 FREE TIME IN SLIEMA

**Relaxed Start.** Today is free for you to laze on the rooftop terrace or stroll along the promenade. Why not take an Optional Experience with lunch on Gozo Island? (B)

#### DAY 11 SLIEMA FREE DAY

Relaxed Start. Your day is at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 12 MDINA THE SILENT CITY

Head to Mdina with a Local Expert in the late afternoon to explore this golden city, known also as the silent city for its shady streets and peaceful atmosphere.

Enjoy a Celebration Dinner at a wonderful local restaurant where you'll toast to your trip with your fellow travellers. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 13 DEPART MALTA

Bid farewell to this exotic island as you travel to Malta airport for your homeward journey. (B)





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AUTHENTIC DINING Be introduced to local foods at your Welcome Dinner. (Photo by @insightelena, Day 1, Catania)



| 2023                  | 2024                |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 21         | <b>APR</b> 19       |
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| <b>JUL</b> 14, 28     | <b>JUL  </b> 12, 26 |
| AUG   11, 25          | AUG   09, 23        |
| SEP 08,22             | SEP 06, 20          |
| <b>ОСТ</b>  06        | <b>OCT</b>  04      |
|                       |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crnorthernitl

#### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 13 MEALS 11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Milan:** A local historian brings Milan's history to life, including the contributions of Leonardo da Vinci, during a guided walking tour.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Verona: Choose a walking tour through the grand piazzas, see the statue of Dante and admire the Gothic tombs of the Scala family. Alternatively, embark on a Shakespearethemed walk to discover famous moments from the story of Romeo and Juliet.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Lake Maggiore: Meet Stefano before sitting down to a Farm-to-Table Celebration Dinner with local wine.

Welcome Dinner in Milan • Dine-Around options in Como • Farm-to-Table Celebration Dinner in Baveno.

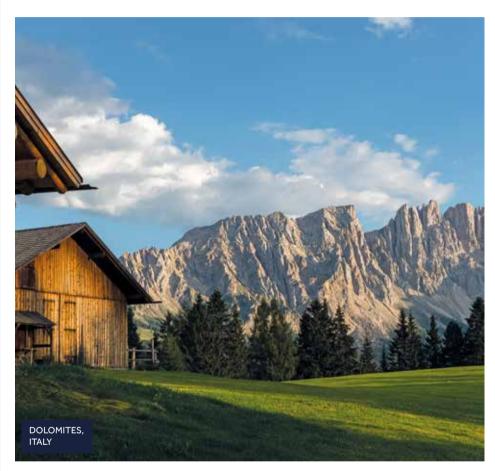
Taste Prosecco in Veneto.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by gondola on the canals of Venice. City tours of Milan and Verona, with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF NORTHERN ITALY

"We all live to explore. I became a Travel Director because it gives me an opportunity to help our guests pursue their passions and dreams of travel." – Margaret, Travel Director





VENICE



SIRMIONE, LAKE GARDA

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ITALY

After a warm welcome at Milan's Malpensa Airport, transfers depart for your hotel at 09:30 and 12:30. Meet your Travel Director at 15:30 and join a local historian to navigate through Milan's history and the life of Leonardo da Vinci. See the impressive facade of Milan Cathedral and the world famous La Scala Opera House.

## Mingle and get to know your fellow travellers during your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

Crowne Plaza Hotel Milan City.

#### DAY 2 FAIR VERONA AND TRENTO

Cross the fertile plains of Lombardy to fair Verona, the home of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. Explore its maze of elegant squares and visit the well-preserved Roman Arena, still used for opera performances.

Explore Verona with Insight Choice. Choose a walking tour through the grand piazzas, see the statue of Dante and admire the Gothic tombs of the Scala family. Alternatively, embark on a Shakespeare-themed walk to discover famous moments from the story of Romeo and Juliet, stopping at Juliet's famed balcony.

Continue on to Trento, regarded as one of Italy's most appealing cities to live in. (B)

#### NH Trento.

#### DAY 3 CLIMB UP TO CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

**Relaxed Start.** Follow the Adige River north into the magnificent mountains and the distinctive limestone peaks of the Dolomites. Arrive at the town of Bolzano, where Italy and Austria culturally collide and you are at leisure to explore the arcaded streets and squares. Continue along the zigzagging scenic route to Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy's most exclusive ski resort and a beautiful alpine haven during summer. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel de la Poste, Cortina d'Ampezzo.

#### DAY 4 THE DOLOMITES AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a day at your leisure in this fashionable playground of the rich and famous, surrounded by towering cathedrals of rock. Take in the fresh mountain air as you stroll the pedestrianized Corso Italia, lined with designer stores and backed by the impressive green and white bell tower of the parish church. Why not ascend to the summit of one of the nearby peaks for magnificent panoramic views of the Dolomites? (B)

# DAY 5 THROUGH PROSECCO COUNTRY TO VENICE

Travel down through more majestic Dolomite scenery to one of the world's most breathtaking wine regions. Protected by the Alps to the north, and caressed by the warm breezes from the Adriatic, the vineyards around Conegliano Veneto produce Italy's most prized sparkling wine.

Stop at Carmina where great care is taken to ensure these hand-picked grapes produce the world's finest prosecco. See how production differs from its more famous French counterpart, champagne. Be tempted with a taste of the crisp and aromatic flavours and learn how to make the perfect bellini. Continue on to the unique and remarkable island city of Venice, Queen of the Adriatic and check into your hotel. (B)

#### Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio, Venice.

#### DAY 6 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Wake up ready to embrace this romantic city. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a visit to a traditional arts centre, where you can see how beautiful handcrafted glass is made by expert glassblowers, safeguarding traditional skills. What better way to see Venice than from a private boat, cruising past palazzos and churches to St. Mark's Square? See the gilded basilica, the Doge's Palace and Lord Byron's Bridge of Sighs. No visit to Venice would be complete without a gondola serenade through the myriad of beautiful canals. Relax and enjoy traditional local songs, as you drift along in romantic awe. Spend the afternoon as you wish. As night falls, why

not savour the magic of St. Mark's Square with its orchestras and al-fresco cafes? (B)

#### DAY 7 SIRMIONE AND COMO

**Relaxed Start.** Bid farewell to this enchanting city and continue past the university town of Padua to the peaceful shores of Lake Garda, the largest of Italy's lakes.

Visit the charming resort town of Sirmione, clustered around the 13th century Scaligero Castle on a narrow peninsula jutting out into the lake. Follow the southern fringes of the Alps to reach the spectacular Italian Lake District and your hotel on the shores of Lake Como, where you will enjoy views on the lake from your room.

#### Later, you have a choice of cuisine and ambience from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Como.

## DAY 8 COMO AT LEISURE AND LAKE MAGGIORE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a morning at leisure in Como. Nestled in the foothills of the Alps, this is a prime spot to catch a glimpse of Europe's rich and famous.

Journey onwards to Lake Maggiore's Baveno, renowned for its charming 16th century square and narrow cobbled streets. (B)

#### Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

#### DAY 9 ITALIAN LAKES AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Relish a full day to relax and enjoy this popular resort and beautiful lake. Napoleon came here to plan his Italian Campaign, and Mussolini and Chamberlain met here before World War II to sign the Treaty of Stresa. Perhaps take a cruise out to the lovely Borromean Islands? Isola Bella is where Carlo Borromeo built his charming Palace.

Savour delicious Farm-to-Table cuisine during your Celebration Dinner, accompanied by some exquisite Italian wines. Raise a glass to your travels and newfound friends. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 DEPART MILAN

Your journey draws to a close in the morning and transfers arrive at Milan's Malpensa Airport at 07:30 and 10:30. (B)







OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE Wonder at the breathtaking beauty of the Dolomites. (Photo by @AnnaTarget, Day 4, Cortina d'Ampezzo)



# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS**

By our guests and Travel Directors



OSHARON\_INSTA
 PLITVICE LAKES, CROATIA



O @SKINNYLYNNY OPATIJA, CROATIA



f DON FOUGHT CHAPEL BRIDGE, SWITZERLAND



(a) ALLY6673 STANSERHORN, SWITZERLAND



OSKINNYLYNNY
 PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK,
 CROATIA



(akonyoqueen mt stanserhorn, switzerland



OROOKSCORNER
 GLACIER EXPRESS,
 SWITZERLAND



O SKINNYLYNNY ART PAVILLION, ZAGREB



# The Alps, Central @Eastern Europe

### Best of Germany

Glorious Switzerland 8 DAYS | PAGE 112

Country Roads of Switzerland 14 DAYS | PAGE 114

Country Roads of Bavaria, Swizterland & Austria 12 DAYS | PAGE 116

Magical Switzerland 7 DAYS | PAGE 118

Winter Wonderland 9 DAYS | PAGE 119

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Highlights of Poland

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Christmas Markets of Poland, Prague & Germany 8 DAYS | PAGE 139

Christmas Markets of Austria & Bavaria 8 DAYS | Available online

Christmas Markets of Germany 8 DAYS | Available online

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| <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   |
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| <b>SEP</b> 01,08,15,22,29   | 23,30                         |
| <b>OCT</b>  06              | SEP   06, 13, 20, 27          |
| •••                         | <b>OCT</b>  04                |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestgermany

® REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

**12 DAYS** 1 COUNTRY 16 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e⊕</sup> 4.3<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW ★★★★☆

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Berlin:** Savour the warm atmosphere of your delicious Welcome Dinner at Kreuzberger Himmel. This popular local restaurant actively supports refugees' integration into German society, providing apprenticeships.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Black Forest:** Discover the art of cuckoo clock making at a charming workshop in the Black Forest. Watch a demonstration by a lively artisan, while you enjoy a glass of cherry wine.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Munich:** Choose to join a foodie walking tour in the heart of Munich. Alternatively, visit the famous Residenz.

Choose between two experiences in Rothenburg.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

Lively Welcome Dinner in Berlin • Farm-To-Table Lunch in Bacharach • Dine-Around options in Rothenburg • Celebration Dinner in Munich.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel along the Rhine on a scenic cruise. Visit Heidelberg Castle • Neuschwanstein Castle

City Tours of Berlin, Dresden, Weimar and Frankfurt, all with Local Experts.

# BEST OF GERMANY

"I love to show my guests that Germany is much more than just pretzels and beer. Mysterious forests, romantic castles and stunning rivers and valleys create an unforgettable setting for our journey." **– Alex, Travel Director** 

IMPROVED ITINERARY





BLACK FOREST



ROTHENBURG

110

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BERLIN

On arrival at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, transfers depart at 10.30, 13:00 &16:00.

At 18:30, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with your Travel Director and travel companions at the Kreuzberger Himmel restaurant. Discover how this establishment helps support refugees as they integrate into German society over a Welcome Dinner with wine. (DW)

Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre.

### DAY 2 THE SPIRIT OF BERLIN

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert to see some of Berlin's many highlights. Travel along the Ku'Damm past the Memorial Church and drive through the Tiergarten to see the Reichstag building. Continue with a visit to Brandenburg Gate and along Unter den Linden, passing the Humboldt University and State Opera to stop on Museum Island. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Perhaps choose to explore Potsdam? (B)

### DAY 3 DRESDEN, A BAROQUE PHOENIX ON THE ELBE

In Dresden, join your Local Expert to see the Frauenkirche, 'The Procession of the Dukes' mosaic, the huge cathedral, Semper Opera House and Baroque Zwinger Palace. Although the town was heavily bombed during World War II, it remains a treasure trove of early German history and baroque architecture. (B)

### Hilton Dresden.

### DAY 4 MEDIEVAL ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER

Join a Local Expert in Weimar to explore the city of literary luminaries

Goethe and Schiller. Continue to medieval Erfurt and to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the bestpreserved town on the Romantic Road. Join your Travel Director for a city orientation where you will see medieval history come to life, as you wander the narrow cobbled streets.

## For your Dine-Around Evening, choose from a hand-picked selection of restaurants within the walls of the Old Town. (B) (DW)

### Hotel Altes Brauhaus, Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

### DAY 5 ROTHENBURG AT LEISURE

Choose between an inspiring stroll through the narrow-cobbled streets with a Local Expert or, alternatively, take in panoramic views on the historic city walls walk, accompanied by a Local Expert. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure for further exploration on your own, or perhaps a quided visit to the medieval town of Nuremberg. (B)

### DAY 6 FRANKFURT AND MAINZ

**Relaxed Start.** Continue your travels through to Frankfurt and take in the city's famed landmarks with a Local Expert. See the gable-roofed Römer, European Central Bank, Frankfurt Cathedral's Coronation Site, and the eminent Paulskirche. Complete your visit with a tasting of local Apfelwein.

Your hotel is in the nearby town of Mainz, a bustling and important town since the time of the Romans. Enjoy a guided visit of the Gutenberg Museum, dedicated to one of history's most important inventors. (B)

### Hilton Mainz.

### DAY 7 CASTLES OF THE RHINE EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a relaxing cruise as you pass steep-sided vineyards, half-timbered taverns, hilltop castles and the infamous Lorelei Rock.

Stop in Bacharach for a delicious Farm-to-Table Lunch, prepared with locally sourced ingredients.

Stop at the Ratsenburger winery for a tasting of its renowned wines. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience learn how eco preservation techniques are implemented, creating a sustainable business for future generations. (B) (LW)

### DAY 8 HEIDELBERG AND CUCKOO CLOCKS

Continue your travels through to Heidelberg and venture inside Heidelberg Palace. See the Heidelberg Tun, a 130,000-litre wine vat, spend time in the Apothecary Museum and marvel at the panoramic vistas of the city and Neckar Valley from the castle fortress.

On your journey into the iconic Black Forest stop to meet the locals who still make cuckoo clocks by hand, a tradition passed down over 300 years. (B) (DW)

### Maritim Titisee Hotel.

### DAY 9 THE BLACK FOREST AT LEISURE

The best way to enjoy this enchanting region is on a lake cruise. Relax and soak up the atmosphere of the Black Forest. (B)

### DAY 10 JEWELS OF THE BAVARIAN ALPS

Embark on an exciting visit to Neuschwanstein Castle, bristling with turrets and pinnacles, and built as a retreat for the wildly eccentric King Ludwig II. See the extravagantly decorated apartments, including the Throne Room and Lohengrin Grotto. Continue to Munich, Bavaria's capital city and home of the world-famous Oktoberfest. (B)

### Munich Marriott Hotel.

### DAY 11 THE BAVARIAN CAPITAL OF MUNICH

Relaxed Start. Explore Munich with Insight Choice. Choose to join a Local Expert for a foodie walking tour in the city centre visiting the famous Viktualienmarkt and Marienplatz. Alternatively, visit the famous Residenz, and see its museum and Treasury.

In the evening, round off your German experience with a farewell Celebration Dinner, complete with local wine. Prost! (B) (DW)

### DAY 12 AUF WIEDERSEHEN MUNICH!

Your departure transfer arrives at Munich Airport at 07:00 and 09:00. (B)



This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.







INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Learn the history and ancient techniques of clock making. (Photo by @Jennifermfarmer, Day 8, Black Forest)



| 2023                        | 2024                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>MAY   </b> 05, 12, 19, 26  |
| <b>JUN</b> 04, 11, 18, 25   | <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| <b>JUL</b> 02,09,16,23,30   | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| AUG   06, 13, 20, 27        | <b>AUG</b>   04, 11, 18, 25   |
| <b>SEP</b>   03, 10, 17, 24 | SEP   01, 08, 15, 22          |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/glorioussui

### © REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEISURELY**

8 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 11 MEALS 13 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.6

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Stanserhorn:** Embark on a spectacular journey to the summit of Mount Stanserhorn. Meet a Swiss ranger to learn about the local wildlife and flora over a conservation talk.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Lake Geneva: Visit Chillon Castle with the Head of Collections to discover the artefacts, treasures and history of the chateau.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Stanserhorn:** Choose to embark on a walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Geneva • Dine-Around options in Zermatt • Celebration Dinner in Lucerne.

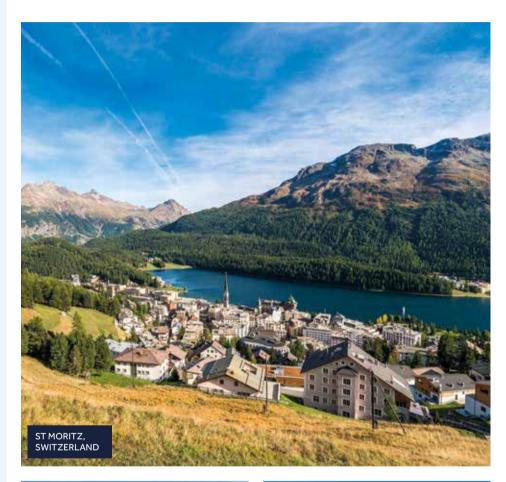
### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel on the Matterhorn Gotthard Railway to Zermatt • Travel along part of the route of the Glacier Express.

See Jet d'Eau and Floral Clock in Geneva • Lake Geneva and the Alps from Montreux • Matterhorn from Zermatt • Lake Maggiore • Baveno's cobbled streets • St. Moritz • Vaduz Castle • Lion Monument and Chapel Bridge in Lucerne.

# GLORIOUS SWITZERLAND

"Guests always tell me they loved meeting the head of collections at Chillon Castle on Lake Geneva. They impart history in a fun way, so that you feel like you are reliving it all!" – Martin, Travel Director





CHILLON CASTLE, LAKE GENEVA



@ALLY6673, NEAR ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

### DAY 1 GENEVA, CITY OF GARDENS

Prepare yourself for the majesty of Switzerland's snow-capped mountains, glaciers, sparkling lakes, flower-filled meadows and rich, green valleys. Transfers from Geneva airport to your hotel depart at 11:00, 13:00 and 16:00.

### Meet your Travel Director and travel companions at 18:00, for a short stroll to your Welcome Dinner. The evening is full of Swiss delight, as you enjoy the cosy decor while being served typical Swiss specialties including cheese fondue.

Return to your immaculate boutique hotel, the award-winning Hotel d'Angleterre. Enjoy British charm and the finest Swiss hospitality, with each room individually designed to reflect its elegant style. (DW)

### Hotel d'Angleterre, Geneva.

### DAY 2 MONTREUX, CHILLON AND THE MATTERHORN VILLAGE OF ZERMATT

Start your day with highlights of Geneva, the City of Gardens. See the Jet d'Eau and Floral Clock. Then relax and enjoy the enchanting scenery as we continue to the charming town of Montreux. Situated at the foot of the Alps and boasting beautiful lakeside walks, enjoy free time to explore this pretty town.

On the western bay of Lake Geneva, join Maud, head of collections at Chillon Castle, for a special tour of the former home to the Dukes of Savoy, immortalized by Lord Byron's 'Prisoner of Chillon.' Keep a look out for where the writer is rumoured to have left his mark.

Continue through the Rhone Valley, where high summer temperatures support vines and other fruits. The final stage of your journey is by cogwheel train to the traffic-free Alpine resort of Zermatt.

During your orientation with your Travel Director, feast your eyes on the distinctive triangular silhouette of the Matterhorn.

### At night, enjoy a stroll in the fresh mountain air to your chosen restaurant for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

Resort Hotel Alex, Zermatt.

### DAY 3 FREE TIME IN ZERMATT

**Relaxed Start.** Zermatt in the summertime offers many leisure possibilities: try swimming, hiking, or spend a whole day relaxing in the fresh Alpine surroundings. Perhaps take an optional ride on Europe's highest cable car to the snow-capped roof of the world for a magnificent panorama of the highest peaks in Switzerland, Italy and France? (B)

### DAY 4 ELEGANT BAVENO

**Relaxed Start.** Descend to Täsch and rejoin the coach. Follow in Napoleon's footsteps as you ascend the Simplon Pass, taking in magnificent views over the Alps from the 2,000-metre summit. Continue along the gentle shores of Lake Maggiore. Perhaps take a delightful boat trip to see the stunning Isola Bella? (B)

### Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

### DAY 5 GRISON ALPS TO CHIC ST. MORITZ

Head north back into the high mountain country of the Grisons Alps today. Ascend the San Bernadino and the Julier Passes to arrive in the sparkling Engadine Valley with an invigorating climate characterized by clear skies and its location high in the Alps.

On arrival in the cosmopolitan resort of St. Moritz, a brief orientation with your Travel Director will show you the spa quarter and the brilliantly sparkling glacial lake, before there is time to explore further on your own, or perhaps step aboard the Bernina Express to experience one of Europe's most outstanding train journeys. (B) (DW)

### Crystal Hotel/Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz.

### DAY 6 SCENIC TRAIN RIDE, LIECHTENSTEIN AND LUCERNE

Start the day with a scenic train ride along part of the route of the Glacier Express, through unforgettable scenes of ice-capped mountains, stone-built villages and lush meadows. At Chur, reboard your coach and travel along the

valley of the Upper Rhine to spend some time in Vaduz, the tiny capital of the Principality of Liechtenstein, where you explore the area around the castle.

Continue to Lucerne alongside the dramatic Walensee and Lake Zürich. On arrival, see the sorrowful sculpture of the wounded lion, commemorating the brave Swiss Guards who died defending King Louis XVI during the French Revolution. Your Travel Director will also show you the Jesuit Church and the Chapel Bridge. (B)

### Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

### DAY 7 THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT STANSERHORN

**Relaxed Start.** Begin the day at your leisure. Perhaps take a stroll along the lake or shop for fine watches?

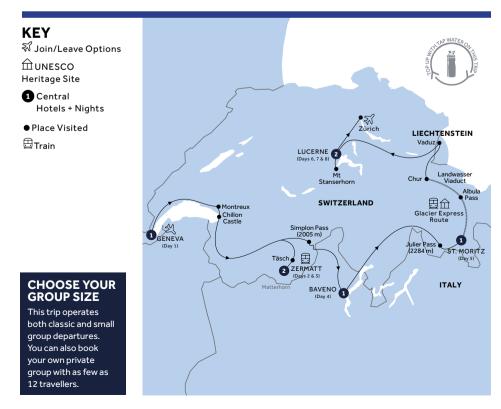
Then, embark on a scenic journey by funicular railway and open-top cable car to the summit of Mount Stanserhorn.

Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and listen to a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. Alternatively, walk through the Stanserhorn marmot park and along the Rock-Gipfelweg trail leading to the summit.

With new friends, enjoy a Celebration Dinner at the foot of Mount Stanserhorn, with magnificent views over Lake Lucerne at Restaurant Seeblick. (B) (DW)

### DAY 8 LEAVE LUCERNE FOR ZÜRICH

In the morning, your departure transfer will arrive at Zürich airport at 08:00. (B)







TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Marvel at the view from the top of Mount Stanserhorn. (Photo by @Darren\_s\_glazer, Day 7, Stanserhorn)



| 2023<br>APR   09, 16, 23, 30<br>MAY   02, 07, 09, 14,<br>16, 21, 23, 28, 30<br>JUN   04, 06, 11, 13,<br>18, 20, 25, 27<br>JUL   02, 04, 09, 11,<br>16, 18, 23, 25, 30<br>AUG   01, 06, 08, 13,<br>15, 20, 22, 27, 29 | 2024<br>APR   07, 14, 21, 28, 30<br>MAY   05, 07, 12, 14,<br>19, 21, 26, 28<br>JUN   02, 04, 09, 11,<br>16, 18, 23, 25, 30<br>JUL   02, 07, 09, 14,<br>16, 21, 23, 28, 30<br>AUG   04, 06, 11, 13,<br>18, 20, 25, 27 |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| <b>SEP</b>   03, 05, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24  | <b>SEP  </b> 01, 03, 08, 10, 15, 17, 22  |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crswitzerland

### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

14 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 18 MEALS 25 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Lake Geneva: Visit a winery. Enjoy a tasting, and learn how the family is preserving the estate for future generations.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Lake Geneva: Visit Chillon Castle with the Head of Collections to discover the artefacts, treasures and history of the chateau.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Stanserhorn: Choose to embark on a walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Lucerne • Dine-Around options in Zermatt • Celebration Dinner in Zürich.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

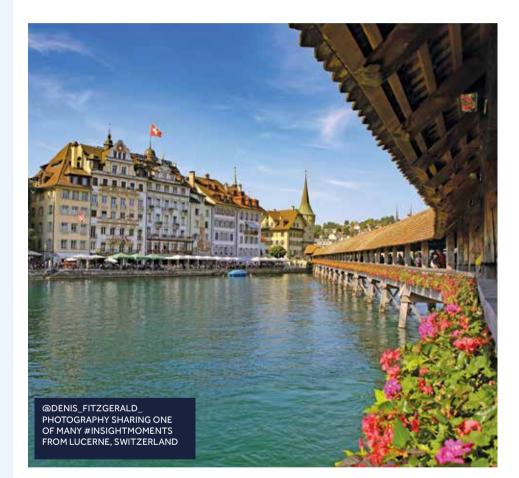
Travel on the Glacier Express • Cruise on Lake Geneva • Ride the Matterhorn Gotthard Railway to Zermatt.

Visit the Jobin Swiss Woodcarving Centre in Brienz.

See Zürich • Lucerne's Lion Monument and Chapel Bridge • Travel in St. Moritz with your included pass • Lauterbrunnen • Staubbach Falls • the glacier village of Grindelwald.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF SWITZERLAND

"One food I really love introducing my guests to is cheese or meat fondue. It's not only a great meal, but it's an experience of its own and always lots of fun. Especially when I see all our guests bonding and having a good time discovering the way we enjoy it over here." – Daniele, Travel Director





MOUNT STANSERHORN, A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE



@IMSTILLAKIDATHEART, GLACIER EXPRESS

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### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO LUCERNE

Welcome to Switzerland. On arrival at Zürich airport, transfers leave for your hotel in Lucerne at 09.30 and 13.30

Meet your Travel Director and travel companions at 18:00, followed by a pleasant Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

### Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

### DAY 2 ASCEND THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT STANSERHORN

Board a funicular railway and open-top cable car for a spectacular journey to the summit of Mount Stanserhorn

Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and listen to a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. Alternatively, walk through the marmot park and along the Rock-Gipfelweg trail leading to the summit. At the highest point you can enjoy a breathtaking panorama.

Return to the 14th century city of Lucerne to see its storybook wooden bridges, baroque church and sorrowful Lion Monument.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. (B)

### **DAY 3** BERN, GRUYÈRES AND MONTREUX

In Bern, your Local Expert, a local English teacher, shows you the Cathedral of St. Vincent, Federal Palace and floral displays. Gather at the clock tower to watch the mechanical procession of painted figures before viewing the Ogre Fountain. Continue to the fortified town of Gruyères, where there is time at leisure.

From Montreux, travel along the shores of Lake Geneva to visit a winery. Admire the stunning panorama overlooking the lake and savour a tasting of tantalising, local wines.

Delight in a delicious Farm-to-Table light dinner, made from locally sourced produce, and learn how the family is preserving the estate for future generations on this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. (B) (DW)

### Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic, Montreux.

### DAY 4 LAKE GENEVA AND THE SWISS COUNTRYSIDE

On the western bay of Lake Geneva, visit Chillon Castle, for a special tour of the former home to the Dukes of Savoy, immortalized by Lord Byron's 'Prisoner of Chillon,' (B)

### DAY 5 GENEVA AND SCENIC LAKE CRUISE

**Relaxed Start.** Follow the shores of the lake to the international city of Geneva, seeing the Jet d'Eau and Floral Clock.

Next, relax in first-class comfort on the waters of Lake Geneva during a highlight cruise. This evening, enjoy time at leisure on the promenade of your lakeside resort. (B)

### DAY 6 MARTIGNY, SION AND ZERMATT

Relaxed Start. Journey to Martigny to view the Roman Amphitheater and continue to the town of Sion to see the cathedral and Old Town Hall. Complete your journey via cogwheel train to the traffic-free mountain resort of Zermatt.

This evening, take your pick from a selection a local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. Perhaps you will delight in the typical Swiss dining experience of fondue? (B) (DW)

### Resort Hotel Alex. Zermatt.

### DAY 7 ZERMATT AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Zermatt in the summertime offers many leisure possibilities: try swimming, hiking or relaxing in your alpine surroundings. Perhaps take a trip to the Klein Matterhorn to view the magnificent snow-capped top of the world. (B)

### DAY 8 THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT TO BAVENO

Descend to Täsch for a scenic drive to Brig, where you'll commence your ascent of the Simplon Pass. The afternoon is at your leisure. Perhaps join an experience to the stunning Isola Bella? (B)

ZÜRICH

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asser Viaduct

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ITALY

Albula Pass

2

ST. MORITZ

(Days 9 & 10)

Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

### DAY 9 THE GLAMOUR AND GLITZ OF ST. MORITZ

Journey along the shores of Lake Maggiore, heading north to the three fortifications at Bellinzona, Meet your Local Expert for a fascinating insight into this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue through the Grisons Region, following the Rhine River to the glamorous resort of St. Moritz (B)

### Crystal Hotel/Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz.

### DAY 10 LEISURE TIME IN ST. MORITZ

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day at leisure to mingle with the jet-setters in this elegant resort or perhaps take an exciting train journey over the Bernina pass. To help you make the most of your day, your Travel Director will provide you with a mountain railways pass, offering free travel on all cable cars, funiculars and chairlifts (when available) in Engadine St Moritz (B)

### **DAY 11** THE GLACIER EXPRESS

Step aboard the Glacier Express to experience one of the world's great railway journeys. Cross the Landwasser Viaduct and head down through the Oberalp Valley, rejoining the coach at Andermatt. Drive through the Schöllenen Gorge, along the Grindelwald Valley and follow the Lütschine River to Lauterbrunnen.

See the Staubbach Falls plunge 300 metres from the plateau above. (B) (DW)

### Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald.

### DAY 12 GRINDELWALD AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a day at your leisure to explore Grindelwald further. Perhaps take a cogwheel train ride to the summit of the Jungfrau mountain? (B)

### DAY 13 RURAL SWITZERLAND TO ZÜRICH

Journey to Brienz to visit the Jobin Swiss Woodcarving Centre. On return to Zürich, see the Bahnhofstrasse, Grossmünster, River Limmat and Frauenmünster.

### Join your travel companions at a local restaurant. Your Celebration Dinner is accompanied with wine raise your glass to toast to your adventures. (B) (DW)

**Renaissance Zurich Tower Hotel.** 

### DAY 14 DEPART ZÜRICH

Your Swiss adventures come to and end this morning, with a transfer to Zürich airport arriving at 08:00. (B)





| 2023                          | 2024                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>APR  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | <b>MAY  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| AUG   04, 11, 18, 25          | AUG   02, 09, 16,               |
| <b>SEP</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | 23, 30                          |
| <b>OCT</b> 06, 13             | SEP   06, 13, 20, 27            |
| • '                           | <b>OCT</b> 04, 11               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crbavaria

### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

12 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 17 MEALS 12 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup>

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Salzburg:** Experience a Musical Demonstration at Mozart's Birthplace.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Munich:** Choose to join a foodie walking tour in the heart of Munich. Alternatively, visit the famous Residenz.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Vienna • Beerhall Dinner in Munich • Farm to Table in Salzburg • Dine-Around options in Innsbruck. Enjoy expansive mountain views over Lake Lucerne for your special Celebration Dinner.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel on the Glacier Express.

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Visit Neuschwanstein Castle.

City tours of Salzburg and Vienna, both with Local Experts.

See Feldherrnhalle in the Odeonsplatz, Palace of the Dukes of Wittelsbach, English Garden, Hofbräuhaus and Marienplatz in Munich • the church featured in 'The Sound of Music' in Mondsee • Hofburg Imperial Residence and Opera House in Vienna • Kindberg's colourful maypole • Old Town, Imperial Palace and Golden Roof in Innsbruck • St. Moritz • Lion Monument and Chapel Bridge in Lucerne.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF BAVARIA, SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA

"Breathe fresh mountain air in St.Moritz, take in the charm of Salzburg and immerse yourself in the elegance of Vienna." – Daniele, Travel Director

IMPROVED ITINERARY





@KONYOQUEEN, ST. MORITZ



@LANGSTER1706, NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO VIENNA

At Vienna airport, transfers to your hotel will leave at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30.

At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a drink, followed by a pleasant Welcome Dinner served with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

InterContinental Vienna.

### DAY 2 VIENNA AND THE HABSBURGS

Join a private tour of Maria Theresa's magnificent Schönbrunn Palace and its formal gardens. Be transported to a time of opulence and extravagance, as you marvel at the intricacies of gilded Rococo frames, frescoed ceilings and crystal chandeliers.

See the city's many highlights, including St. Charles' Church, the Hofburg Palace, Parliament and State Opera House. (B)

### DAY 3 ON TO SALZBURG

A short drive through wonderful Austrian countryside leads us to Slazburg. En route, visit Melk Abbey and Mondsee's Basilica St. Michael, easily recognizable due to its appearance in 'Sound of Music'. (B)

### ARCOTEL Castellani, Salzburg.

### DAY 4 THE CITY OF MOZART

**Relaxed Start.** Join your Local Expert, who will show you the formal gardens of Mirabell Palace, Residenzplatz, the city's imposing fortress, the immense cathedral in the Old Town. Visit Mozart's birthplace. Enjoy a pianoforte demonstration and examine letters, memorabilia, and musical instruments of the great composer.

In the evening, relish the authentic experience of Farm-to-Table dining as you dine at a local organic farm. (B) (DW)

### DAY 5 SALZBURG TO MUNICH

This morning, board a boat to explore the sites of picturesque Herrenchiemesee. Visit the palace and Fraueninsel convent. Enjoy time at leisure in the gardens over lunch before continuing by boat to Gstadt. Journey by coach to Munich, home to the world-famous Oktoberfest.

This evening, revel in a truly Bavarian experience as you dine at a local beerhall. (B) (DW)

Munich Marriott Hotel.

### DAY 6 EXPLORE MUNICH AND DACHAU

Journey to Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site for a moment of commemoration and remembrance. Reflect on the weighty history that marks the site and observe the importance of its preservation.

Return to Munich for a city orientation of the university, Victory Arch and the Marienplatz, where crowds gather at the Town Hall to watch the antics of the Glockenspiel. After, explore with Insight Choice. Choose to join a Local Expert for a foodie walking tour in the city centre, visiting the famous Viktualienmarkt and Marienplatz. Alternatively, visit the Munich Residenz, Germany's largest inner-city palace and former seat of Bavarian royalty. (B)

### DAY 7 ON TO INNSBRUCK

Embark on an exciting visit to Neuschwanstein Castle, bristling with turrets and pinnacles and built as a retreat for the wildly eccentric King Ludwig II. See the extravagantly decorated apartments, including the Throne Room and Lohengrin Grotto. Continue to Oberammergau, home of the Passion Play since 1634. See the immense theater and admire the colourful painted chalets before driving on to the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck, set in a valley of snow-capped mountain peaks.

# This evening, for your Dine-Around experience, choose from a fantastic selection of restaurants. (B) (DW)

Hotel Innsbruck.



### **DAY 8** BEAUTIFUL INNSBRUCK

**Relaxed Start.** Awake to the beautiful Alpine city of Innsbruck. A Local Expert guides you through the city to see the 14th-century houses of the Old Town, the impressive Imperial Palace and the delightful Golden Roof. Visit a nearby ski jump, set against staggering mountain vistas. Meet one of the ski jumpers and observe a demonstration jump. (B)

### DAY 9 THE ENGADINE VALLEY AND CHIC ST. MORITZ

**Relaxed Start.** Take in the stunning views of the beautiful Engadine Valley, as you enter Switzerland headed for the chic Alpine resort of St. Moritz. Enjoy the town's marvelous scenery, fresh air and maybe visit its many museums or shop for souvenirs. Perhaps step aboard the Bernina Express to experience one of Europe's most outstanding train journeys? (B) (D)

Crystal Hotel/Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz.

### DAY 10 ALL ABOARD THE GLACIER EXPRESS AND ON TO LUCERNE

Embark on an iconic train journey onboard the Glacier Express, taking in vistas of ice-capped mountains, stone-built villages and lush meadows. Rejoin the coach at Andermatt. Continue north, following the staggering Schollenen Gorge through William Tell country, to Stans. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a seasonal juice tasting.

Your Travel Director will show you the beautiful and poignant Lion Monument, which honours the Swiss Guards in Lucerne. (B)

### Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

### DAY 11 DINNER AT THE 'ROOF OF EUROPE' IN STANSERHORN

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy the morning at your leisure to explore the city's 14th century covered wooden bridge, painted gables, old walls and watchtower of the medieval fortifications. Stroll across the Chapel Bridge to the Jesuit Church, or use your free time to shop.

Later, head to the town of Stans where you'll embark on a scenic journey by funicular railway and cable car, to the summit of the stunning Stanserhorn.

On a clear day, there are views as far as Alsace in France and the Black Forest in Germany.

Here amid true Alpine majesty, your journey literally peaks with an unforgettable Celebration Dinner, hosted in Drehrestaurant Rondorama, located atop the mountain. Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine and admire the stunning panoramic views as the restaurant slowly rotates throughout the evening, ensuring you don't miss a thing. (B) (DW)

### DAY 12 LEAVE LUCERNE FOR ZÜRICH

Your Alpine adventures end this morning, with a transfer to Zürich airport arriving at 08:00. (B)



∜ WIENNA

2023

**NOV** 12, 19, 26 **DEC** 03, 21, 30

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/magicalsui

### **© REGIONAL JOURNEY** ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

7 DAYS **1 COUNTRY** 11 MEALS **10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES** 

feefoes 3.8/5 GUEST REVIEW

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Geneva: Visit the fascinating Red Cross Museum. Learn how this world-renowned organization provides assistance to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers and, with your visit, support their vital work.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Lake Geneva: Visit Chillon Castle with head of collections, Maud, to discover the artefacts, treasures and history of the chateau.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Lucerne • Celebration Dinner in Geneva

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Select departures explore Christmas markets in Lucerne.

Travel on the Glacier Express through the Swiss Alps.

DAY 1 Hotel Astoria. Lucerne.

DAY 2 - 3 Hotel Laudinella. St Moritz.

DAY 4 - 5 Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald.

DAY 6 Warwick Geneva



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website

# MAGICAL SWITZERLAND

"I choose to become a Travel Director because I deeply love making people smile, laugh, savour, be moved, be surprised, and be happy!" - Margherita, Travel Director



Transfers depart Zurich airport for your Lucerne hotel at 09:30 and 13:30. Enjoy the ambiance of this picture-perfect town as you walk among its painted facades in the quaint Old Town. Make your way to the fashionable ski resort of St. Moritz, nestled below the majestic Grisons Alps. Relax, shop or join a memorable ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Bernina Express. Experience the magic of the Glacier Express from the comfort of panoramic viewing cars as you journey to Grindelwald, going past ice-capped mountains, deep gorges and snowy pastures. Discover Chillon Castle with Maud, the head of collections at the Chateau on the shore of Lake Geneva. Stop by for a stroll in Montreux as you make your way to cosmopolitan Geneva. On your final day departure transfers arrive at Geneva airport at 08:00 and 10:00.



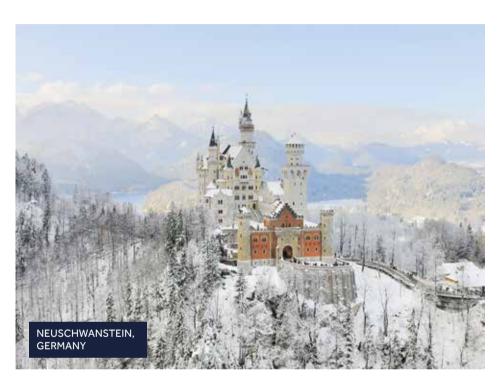
KEY 🖏 Join/Leave Options 🛱 UNESCO Heritage Site 🗊 Central Hotels + Nights 🛈 Scenic Hotels + Nights • Place Visited \Lambda Christmas Markets 🗒 Train

Call an Insight Specialist on 0800 568769 or contact your preferred travel advisor TRIP CODE: W850

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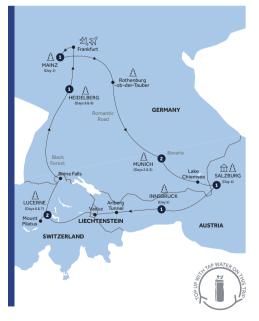
# WINTER WONDERLAND

"Enjoying the atmosphere of the local Christmas markets and trying all the different food and drink traditions is always a highlight." - Sharon Tooman, Travel Director



Depart from Frankfurt airport by transfer at 09:30 or 12:30, to your hotel on the mighty River Rhine in Mainz. You'll visit Rothenburgob-der-Tauber, a medieval town filled with festive cheer. In Bavaria, enjoy the funloving city of Munich and the beautiful countryside of the Austrian Alps. Admire the beauty of baroque Salzburg, and visit Mozart's birthplace. At the Christmas Market sample local 'Lebkuchen,' a sweet-and-spicy soft gingerbread along with delicious mulled wine. Explore Innsbruck with Insight Choice.

Choose to relax on a scenic horsedrawn carriage ride. Alternatively, visit the quirky headquarters of Swarovski Crystal.Stop in tiny Liechtenstein, on your way to the heart of Switzerland.In Lucerne, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit a local chocolaterie for a tasting of Swiss chocolates sourced sustainably.Return to Germany through the Black Forest as you make your way to Heidelberg. On the final day, transfers to Frankfurt airport's Terminal 1 arrives at 09:00 and Terminal 2 at 09:15.



### **TRIP START DATES**

2023

**NOV** | 18.25

DEC | 19, 21, 30

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/wonderland

### **© REGIONAL JOURNEY** ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

### 9 DAYS

**4 COUNTRIES** 12 MEALS **13 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES** 

feefoe 4.4/5 GUEST REVIEW

**INSIGHT EXPERIENCE** 

Salzburg: Experience a Musical Demonstration at Mozart's Birthplace.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Innsbruck: Choose to either meet your coachman and take in the delightful scenery and pure fresh air on a horse-drawn carriage ride, known as a Fiaker. Alternatively, visit the magical world of Swarovski Crystal.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

At the Christmas Market, meet a local stallholder and taste the delicious Lebkuchen with a fragrant cup of Glühwein.

Welcome Dinner in Mainz • Dinner with Tyrolean entertainment in Innsbruck • Celebration Dinner in Heidelberg.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Embrace the magic of Christmas time in Europe. Select departures explore Christmas markets in Mainz. Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber. Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Lucerne and Heidelberg.

City Tour of Salzburg with a Local Expert.

### DAY 1 Hilton Mainz.

DAY 2 - 3 The Westin Grand Munich. DAY 4 ARCOTEL Castellani, Salzburg. DAY 5 AC Hotel Innsbruck. DAY 6 - 7 Hotel Astoria, Lucerne. DAY 8 Marriott Hotel Heidelberg.



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website

KEY 🛪 Join/Leave Options 🏛 UNESCO Heritage Site 🚯 Central Hotels + Nights 🛛 Place Visited 🖄 Christmas Markets

| 2023                          | 2024                          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 28                 | <b>APR</b>  26                |
| <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21           | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 19           |
| AUG   04, 18, 25              | AUG   02, 16, 23, 30          |
| SEP   01, 08, 15, 22, 29      | SEP   06, 13, 20, 27          |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bohemian

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

9 DAYS 5 COUNTRIES 12 MEALS 10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Vienna: Listen to the musical masterpiece of Mozart and learn the Viennese Waltz, in an inclusive workshop designed to support the visually impaired community.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Prague:** Choose to join a Local Expert to explore the courtyards of Prague Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Catherdal. Alternatively, stroll through the Jewish Quarter with your Local Expert.

Choose between two experiences in Vienna.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Vienna • Choice of Dine-Around options in Kraków • Celebration Dinner in Budapest.

### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

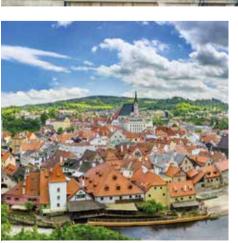
Visit Český Krumlov • Auschwitz • Wawel Cathedral and St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków • Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna.

City tours of Prague, Kraków, Budapest and Vienna, all with Local Experts.

See Prague Castle, Old Town Square and Astronomical Clock in Prague • Old Town and Sukiennice Cloth Hall in Kraków • Oravský Hrad Castle • Hungarian Parliament Building, Heroes' Square, Fisherman's Bastion, Andrássy Boulevard and Váci Utca in Budapest • Hofburg Imperial Residence and Opera House in Vienna.

# THE BOHEMIAN

"Did you know? The Czech Republic, also known as Czechia, is one of the youngest countries in the world. It became independent on the 1st January 1993, when it separated from Slovakia." – Betty, Travel Director



ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

BUDAPEST.

HUNGARY



KRAKÓW

120

### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO VIENNA

At Vienna airport, transfers to your hotel will leave at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30.

At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a drink. followed by a pleasant Welcome Dinner served with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Hilton Vienna Park.

### DAY 2 STATELY VIENNA AND THE HABSBURGS

Join a Local Expert for a private tour of Maria Theresa's magnificent Schönbrunn Palace and its formal gardens. Be transported to a time of opulence and extravagance, as you marvel at the intricacies of gilded Rococo frames, frescoed ceilings and crystal chandeliers.

Explore Vienna with Insight Choice. Choose to visit a traditional Viennese café to enjoy local specialties of coffee and Sachertorte. Alternatively, join a unique MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experience, take to the floor in a Viennese Waltz dance workshop and support the visually impaired community. Dancing in the dark, in a specially designed sensory studio, will be a unique experience for all your senses

Then get your camera ready for a drive around the Ring Road, a grand boulevard built along the lines of the old city walls, showcasing many of the capital's architectural masterpieces, including the Opera House, magnificent Hofburg Imperial Residence, Austrian Parliament Building and Karlskirche. (B)

### DAY 3 CHARMING ČESKÝ KRUMLOV AND GOLDEN PRAGUE

Once over the Czech border, head for picturesque Český Krumlov, where you'll start with a brief orientation tour of this fairy-tale town, straight out of the Middle Ages.

Enjoy some free time to explore and appreciate views of the Vltava River. Wander through the cobblestone, traffic-free streets, past colourful houses that lead up to the finest castle in the land. In the afternoon, continue through the green Bohemian countryside to Golden Prague. (B)

### DAY 4 PRAGUE, CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES

Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a walk through the Jewish Quarter and learn about a different side of the history of Prague. Continue to Old Town Square where the mechanical antics of the Astronomical Clock's glockenspiel delight onlookers each hour. (B)

### **DAY 5** REFLECT ON AUSCHWITZ THEN ONTO KRAKÓW

Eniov a gentle drive through the rolling Czech countryside before crossing into Poland where you will stop at Oświęcim, better known by its German name of Auschwitz.

Join a guided tour of the memorial and museum and stop at Birkenau, which bore witness to the terrible atrocities of the Holocaust. (B) (DW)

### Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków.

### DAY 6 THE DAMSELS AND DRAGONS OF KRAKÓW

Relaxed Start. In the morning why not join an Optional Experience and journey into a glistening subterranean world at the 600-year-old Wieliczka Salt Mine? In a maze of tunnels deep below the surface, witness unique salt sculptures, sunken lakes and even a glorious cathedral carved entirely out of rock salt by the miners.

Alternatively, enjoy a morning at leisure before joining your fellow travellers to ascend Wawel Hill and visit the cathedral, with your Local Expert. Walk past the former residence of Pope John Paul II through the Old Town, to Europe's largest and most beautiful town square. See the medieval Sukiennice Cloth Hall and visit the 14th century St. Mary's Basilica, the most important church in the city. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for the trumpeter in the tower.

### In the evening, choose from a selection of handpicked local restaurants on your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### DAY 7 THROUGH SLEEPY SLOVAKIA TO BUDAPEST

Journey into the Slovakian region of Orava and see the picturesque Oravský Hrad Castle before continuing through the breathtaking Low Tatra Mountains to arrive in Budapest. (B)

Courtyard by Marriott Budapest City Centre.

### DAY 8 BUDAPEST. THE QUEEN OF THE DANUBE

Relaxed Start. Explore Budapest with a Local Expert. Cross the Danube to the Pest district to visit Heroes' Square and drive down elegant Andrássy Boulevard.

Enjoy a tour of the Liszt Music Academy with a student, followed by an enchanting recital. The university was founded by the piano virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt in 1875.

The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax by the Danube or browse the boutiques of Vaci Street.

### For your Celebration Dinner, you are treated to mouthwatering Hungarian specialties, accompanied by specially selected wines. (B) (DW)

### **DAY 9** DEPART BUDAPEST OR VIENNA

Your Bohemian journey concludes after breakfast with transfers arriving at Budapest airport at 07:00 and 11:00. The 07:00 transfer continues to Vienna airport, arriving at midday and offers a final stop at the hotel. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Join your Local Expert to explore the Old Town. (Photo by @InsightTim, Day 6, Kraków)



Hotel Royal Prague.





| 2023                          | 2024                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>APR  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | <b>MAY  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>JUL</b> 14, 28             | <b>JUL  </b> 12, 26             |
| AUG   11, 25                  | AUG   09, 23, 30                |
| SEP   01, 08, 15, 22, 29      | <b>SEP</b> 06, 13, 20, 27       |
| <b>OCT  </b> 06, 27           | <b>OCT</b> 04, 25               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/epbudapest

Select winter departures visit **Christmas Markets**.

EASY PACE ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEISURELY** 

10 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 15 MEALS 8 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.4<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW \*\*\*\*

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Vienna:** Listen to the musical masterpiece of Mozart and learn the Viennese Waltz, in an inclusive workshop designed to support the visually impaired community. Unique to Insight Guests.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Prague:** Choose to join a Local Expert to explore the courtyards of Prague Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, stroll through the Jewish Quarter with your Local Expert.

Choose between two experiences in Vienna.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

**Budapest:** Visit a traditional strudel house for a taste of sweet strudel and learn about the art of making this Hungarian delicacy.

Welcome Dinner in Budapest • Dine-at-Home with locals in Vienna • Dine-Around options in Budapest • Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in Prague.

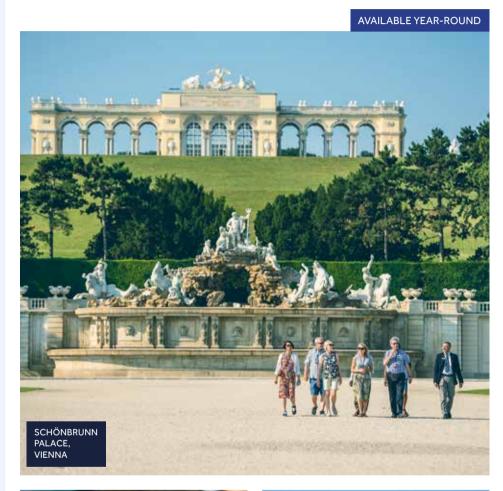
### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

122

Visit Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. City Tours of Budapest, Vienna and Prague, all with Local Experts.

# EASY PACE BUDAPEST, VIENNA & PRAGUE

"It's magical to see how a group of guests comes together over the course of our trip. I can always tell when that's happening because suddenly the enthusiasm is palpable." – Christina, Travel Director





STRUDEL TASTING, BUDAPEST



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BUDAPEST

On arrival at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, enjoy a complimentary transfer to your hotel at 10:00, 13:00 or 15:30. Meet your Travel Director and travel companions at 18:00.

Tonight you are in for a treat with your Welcome Dinner. Dine in elegance as you savour hearty, Hungarian delicacies accompanied with specially selected wines. (DW)

Hotel Nemzeti Budapest - MGallery.

### DAY 2 BUDAPEST, QUEEN OF THE DANUBE

**Relaxed Start.** Drive along the elegant boulevards en route to Heroes' Square. Across the river in Buda, walk with your Local Expert.

Make your way to a traditional strudel house to see pastry chefs at work, as they prepare delicious sweet strudel by stretching the dough and readying fillings. Enjoy a delectable taste of this famous delicacy paired with a rich aromatic coffee.

Enjoy a tour of the Liszt Music Academy with a student, followed by an enchanting recital. Producing incredible musical talent, the university was founded by piano virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt in 1875. (B) (MT)

### DAY 3 FREE TIME IN BUDAPEST

**Relaxed Start.** The day is at leisure to immerse yourself in Budapest's history, culture and gastronomy. Perhaps, visit a thermal bath, spend time browsing the boutiques on Vaci Street or relax in a sidewalk café.

This evening, enjoy a Dine-Around experience from your choice of specially selected restaurants. (B) (DW)

### DAY 4 ALONG THE DANUBE TO ESZTERGOM AND ON TO STATELY VIENNA

Travel along the Danube to the picturesque city of Esztergom, home to the largest Catholic church in Hungary. Then, journey westward for a stop in the pretty town of Győr, located on the confluence of the Danube, Rába and Rábca rivers.

Cross the border and continue to stately Vienna, known for its elegant coffee houses and lavish architecture steeped in history.

In the evening, you are invited to a Dine-at-Home experience. Sit down to a hearty meal with a local family and learn about life in this enchanting city. (B) (DW)

### Mercure Grand Hotel Biedermeier, Vienna.

### **DAY 5** VIENNA AND THE HABSBURGS

Much of Vienna's present-day charm is due to the long reign of the Habsburgs. Join a Local Expert for a private visit of Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace and explore its formal gardens at your own pace.

Explore Vienna with Insight Choice. Choose to visit a traditional Viennese café to enjoy local specialties of coffee and Sachertorte. Alternatively, join a unique MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, take to the floor in a Viennese Waltz dance workshop and support the visually impaired community. Dancing in the dark, in a specially designed sensory studio, will be a unique experience for all your senses.

Then ready your camera for a dazzling drive around the famous Ring Road. This grand boulevard, built along the lines of the old city walls, showcases many of the capital's architectural masterpieces, including the Opera House, magnificent Hofburg Imperial Residence, Austrian Parliament Building and Karlskirche.

The afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

### DAY 6 VIENNA AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Discover the regal grandeur of Vienna as you explore at your own pace. Perhaps start at St. Stephen's Cathedral - one of Europe's great Gothic structures - or browse the shops of the bustling Kärntnerstrasse? You may wish to add another capital to your travels with a visit across the Slovakian border to Bratislava. (B)

### DAY 7 CHARMING ČESKÝ KRUMLOV AND GOLDEN PRAGUE

Once over the Czech border, continue to picturesque Český Krumlov, where you'll start with a brief orientation tour. Wander through cobblestone, traffic-free streets, past colourful houses that lead up to the finest castle in the land. Enjoy some free time to explore. In the afternoon, continue through the green Bohemian countryside to Prague.

In the evening, savour a traditional meal at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

K+K Hotel Central, Prague.

### DAY 8 PRAGUE, CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES

Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a walk through the Jewish Quarter and learn about a different side of the history of Prague.

The city is then yours to explore. Maybe take a river cruise through the heart of the city or walk in the footsteps of kings along the Royal Route? Czechs are passionate about their beer, so be sure to try the local pilsners together with hearty Czech cuisine. (B)

### DAY 9 PRAGUE AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Wind along cobbled lanes and discover a treasure trove of hidden gems as you explore Prague at your own pace. Perhaps cross the border to Germany and explore Dresden?

This evening, tantalise your taste buds with a rousing Celebration Dinner of local specialties at a restaurant. (B) (DW)

### **DAY 10** DEPART PRAGUE

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. Departure transfers arrive at Prague airport at 08:00 and 10:00. (B)







TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Enjoy sweeping views of Budapest from the Fisherman's Bastion. (Photo by @Crystal\_seasalt, Day 2, Budapest)



| 2023                      | 2024                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   14, 21, 28   | <b>APR</b>   12, 19, 26       |
| MAY 05, 12, 19, 26        | MAY 03, 10, 17, 24, 31        |
| <b>JUN</b> 02,09,16,23,30 | <b>JUN</b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>JUL</b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>JUL</b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| <b>AUG</b> 04, 11, 18, 25 | <b>AUG</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 |
| SEP 01,08,15,22           | SEP 06, 13, 20                |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/highlightspoland

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 13 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Warsaw:** Visit the University Botanic Gardens with a biologist. The garden's main function is the protection of biological diversity and the conservation of endangered Polish wild species.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Kraków:** Visit a family-run poster gallery to learn about the history of this colourful, sophisticated art form. Take a tour with Natalie, daughter of the museum's founder Krzysztof Dydo, through his vast collection. The highly recognisable designs play a fascinating part in the artistic history of Poland.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Poznan:** Choose to join an immersive walking tour through the Old Town. Alternatively, learn about the local delicacy, St. Martin's croissant and enjoy a tasting.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Kraków • Celebration Dinner in Warsaw. Meet Poland's Goral Highlanders and share their culture at a dinner with local specialities and music.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

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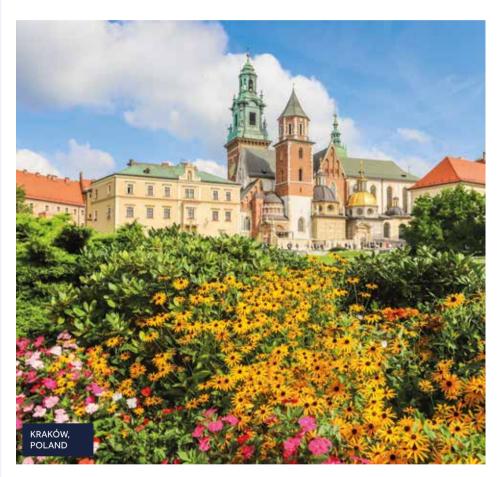
Visit Wawel Cathedral in Kraków • Auschwitz • Gniezno Cathedral • Malbork Castle.

City tours of Kraków, Wrocław, Toruń, Gdansk and Warsaw, all with Local Experts.

See Rynek Główny, Sukiennice Cloth Hall and St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków • Palace of Culture and Chopin Monument in Warsaw.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF POLAND

"People generally don't associate Poland with rugged mountains and ski resorts, but just wait until you see the Tatras down in Zakopane, dramatic and absolutely stunning!" **– Greg, Travel Director** 





TATRA MOUNTAINS



GDANSK

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO KRAKÓW

Transfers to your hotel depart Kraków airport at 12:30 and 15:00.

Meet your Travel Director at 17:00 for a walk around the Rynek Główny, Europe's largest and most beautiful town square. See the famous Sukiennice Cloth Hall, St. Mary's Basilica and the many historic townhouses, palaces and churches.

Enjoy getting to know your fellow guests over a fabulous Welcome Dinner. (DW)

Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków,

### DAY 2 THE DAMSELS AND DRAGONS OF KRAKÓW

Relaxed Start. Relax until your ascent of Wawel Hill to see the Renaissance castle and visit the cathedral with a Local Expert. Head across the former Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz to Podgórze to see Ghetto Square.

Take an artistic journey through time, with a visit to this intriguing family-run poster gallery. Take a tour with Natalie, daughter of the museum's founder Krzysztof Dydo, through his vast collection of sophisticated posters, with their unique and recognisable style. A highly regarded Polish art form, the posters also served a crucial role in conveying information to locals. (B)

### DAY 3 ACROSS THE HIGH TATRA MOUNTAINS TO ZAKOPANE

Journey into the Tatras, the highest range of the Carpathian Mountains. Arrive in at the resort town of Zakopane, famous for its wooden houses and winter sports, and explore on a city orientation.

Enjoy a rousing Highlight Dinner, accompanied by Goral Highlander folklore entertainment at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

Radisson Blu Hotel & Residences, Zakopane.

12 travellers.

### DAY 4 REFLECT ON AUSCHWITZ, THEN ON TO WROCŁAW. THE VENICE OF POLAND

Travelling past the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. your first stop will be the city of Oświęcim, better known by its German name. Auschwitz. With a local historian, experience a moving visit to the memorial and museum and stop at Birkenau. Travel along the Oder River to the city of Wrocław, and with your Local Expert see the brightly coloured facades of noble mansions, the flower markets on the Plac Solny, the Baroque splendour of the Rynek and be introduced to Wrocław's cheeky gnomes. (B)

### Radisson Blu Hotel, Wroclaw.

### DAY 5 POZNAŃ. CRADLE OF THE POLISH NATION

Relaxed Start. In Poznań visit Ostrów Tumski, known as Cathedral Island, a fascinating place of legend, often overlooked by other visitors. Explore Poznan with Insight Choice. Choose to immerse yourself in the history of the city and enjoy a walking tour. Alternatively, learn the secrets behind the St. Martin's croissant, a local delicacy, and enjoy a tasting. (B) (DW)

### Sheraton Poznań Hotel.

### DAY 6 TORUŃ. THE GOTHIC GLORY ON THE VISTULA AND GDAŃSK

Stop at Gniezno to visit the cathedral and see the famous winged bronze doors.

Continue to Toruń, founded by the Teutonic Knights in 1233

Join a Local Expert to discover this outstanding example of medieval architecture, now a living museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spend time exploring at your own pace. Why not shop for traditional gingerbread?

Follow the Vistula River to the Baltic Sea and Gdańsk, with a lovingly restored historic district. (B)

### Hilton Gdańsk.

### DAY 7 THE BALTIC BELLES OF GDAŃSK

Relaxed Start. Spend the morning with a passionate Local Expert. Learn captivating and fun facts about the city and see the Westerplatte, the scene of the first fighting between Polish and German troops in 1939, and the Gdańsk Shipyards where Lech Wałęsa formed the anti-Soviet Solidarność in 1980. Continue through the medieval city, where buildings date back to the time of the Hanseatic League.

Enjoy a free afternoon and perhaps choose to visit the elegant seaside town of Sopot? (B)

### **DAY 8 MALBORK CASTLE AND WARSAW**

With a Local Expert, visit the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork, founded in 1274 by the Teutonic Knights on the banks of the Nogat River. The castle is a stunning example of a medieval fortress and the largest brick Gothic castle in the world. Next travel south to the capital of Warsaw. (B)

The Westin Warsaw.

### DAY 9 EXPLORING THE PROUD POLISH CAPITAL OF WARSAW

**Relaxed Start.** See the Palace of Culture and the Chopin Monument in Łazienki Park with a Local Expert. Visit the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, followed by a walk through Warsaw's Old Town, entirely rebuilt since World War II. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the University Botanic Gardens with a biologist. The garden's main function is the protection of biological diversity and the conservation of endangered Polish wild species.

At your Celebration Dinner, enjoy a fine selection of local dishes with wine at a cosy Warsaw restaurant. (B) (DW)

### DAY 10 DEPART WARSAW

Your transfers will arrive at Warsaw airport at 07:30 and 10:00. (B)







**OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE** Enjoy entertainment of Poland's Polka with dinner. (Photo by @Richardau91, Day 2, Krakow)



| 2023                          | 2024                          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   15, 29           | <b>APR</b>   13, 27           |
| <b>MAY</b> 06, 13, 20, 27, 29 | <b>MAY</b> 04, 11, 18, 25, 27 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24   | <b>JUN</b> 01,08, 15, 22, 29  |
| <b>JUL</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | <b>JUL</b> 06, 13, 20, 27     |
| <b>AUG</b> 05, 12, 19, 26, 28 | AUG 03, 10, 17, 24,           |
| <b>SEP</b>  02,04,09,11,      | 26, 31                        |
| 16, 18, 23, 30                | SEP 02,07,09,14,              |
| <b>OCT  </b> 07, 14           | 16, 21, 28                    |
|                               | <b>OCT</b> 05, 12             |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.** com/highlightseasterneurope

© REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

14 DAYS 6 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.6<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Vienna: Listen to the musical masterpiece of Mozart and learn the Viennese Waltz, in an inclusive workshop designed to support the visually impaired community.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Prague:** Choose to join a Local Expert to explore the courtyards of Prague Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, stroll through the Jewish Quarter with your Local Expert.

Choose between two experiences in Vienna.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

**Warsaw:** Enjoy a demonstration of the traditional techniques of dumpling-making with an expert chef. Then enjoy a hearty Polish Highlight Dinner with a variety of local delicacies and drinks.

Welcome Dinner in Budapest • Cooking Demonstration and Dinner in Warsaw • highlight dinner in Český Krumlov • Strauss and Mozart concert with dinner in Vienna. Taste beer in České Budějovice.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

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Visit Wawel Cathedral and St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków • Auschwitz • Český Krumlov Castle • Schönbrunn Palace.

City tours of Budapest, Kraków, Warsaw, Berlin, Prague and Vienna, all with Local Experts.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF EASTERN EUROPE

"This is the perfect trip to discover Central Europe. Very well paced, with a good balance of activities, visits and free time. Guests simply love the overnight in the fairy-tale town of Český Krumlov." – Orsolya, Travel Director





SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE, VIENNA



ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BUDAPEST

On arrival at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, there are complimentary transfers to your hotel at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 and travel to a local restaurant. Your Welcome Dinner is a treat of mouthwatering Hungarian specialties, accompanied by specially selected wine. (DW)

### Corinthia Hotel / Hilton Budapest.

### DAY 2 DELVE INTO BUDAPEST

**Relaxed Start.** Stroll through the alleys of the Old Town of Buda with a Local Expert. Enjoy a tour of the Liszt Music Academy with a student, followed by an enchanting recital. The university was founded by the piano virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt in 1875. (B)

### DAY 3 THE MOUNTAINS TO KRAKÓW

Travel through Slovakia, passing the breathtaking Low Tatra Mountains. Stop at scenic Donovaly. See Oravský Hrad Castle before continuing to historic Kraków. (B) (DW)

Mercure Kraków Stare Miasto.

### DAY 4 THE DAMSELS AND DRAGONS OF KRAKÓW

Relaxed Start. Join a Local Expert to explore Kraków and ascend Wawel Hill to visit the cathedral. Walk through the Old Town, to Europe's largest and most beautiful town square and see the medieval Cloth Hall. Visit the 14th century St. Mary's Basilica. Then enjoy free time to explore. Why not join an Optional Experience to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine? (B)

### DAY 5 AUSCHWITZ AND CZĘSTOCHOWA

Join a Local Expert for a visit to Auschwitz, infamous for its role during the Holocaust. Spend reflective moments amid the remains of the concentration camp and the memorials. Continue north to Częstochowa, home of the Monastery of Jasna Góra, famous of the Black Madonna.

Continue across the Polish plains to the capital, Warsaw.

### Enjoy a dumpling demonstration and tasting. Afterward, you will be treated to a delicious Highlight Dinner of local dishes. (B) (DW)

The Westin Warsaw.

### DAY 6 THE POLISH CAPITAL OF WARSAW

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert in the morning to see the Old Town, Royal Castle and Palace of Culture. Visit the Chopin Memorial in the Łazienki Park.

Pay your respects at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes and then enjoy a free afternoon to explore at your own pace. Perhaps attend a Chopin recital or delve into Warsaw's inspirational past? (B)

### DAY 7 WIELKOPOLSKA TO BERLIN

Your route leads westward, across the rolling farmlands of the central plains, over the Oder River to enter Germany. (B)

### Hotel NH Collection Berlin Mitte am Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin.

### DAY 8 THE SPIRIT OF BERLIN

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert for a drive through the leafy Tiergarten to the refurbished Reichstag building and see the Brandenburg Gate. On the eastern side, take the Unter den Linden past the State Opera House to Museum Island. (B)

### Marriott Hotel Berlin.

### DAY 9 DRESDEN AND GOLDEN PRAGUE

In Dresden, see the reconstructed Frauenkirche and the 'Procession of the Princes' on the wall of the Royal Palace. Explore around the Catholic cathedral to view the tiered facades of the opera house and the Baroque Zwinger Palace. (B) (DW)

### Lindner Hotel Prague Castle.

### DAY 10 PRAGUE, CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES

Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a walk through the Jewish Quarter and learn about a different side of the history of Prague.

The city is then yours to explore. Perhaps walk in the footsteps of kings along the Royal Route? (B)

### DAY 11 BOHEMIAN ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

**Relaxed Start.** At České Budějovice, enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of a local brewery to sample the beer and discover the secrets of this golden vintage.

Continue on to the medieval town of Český Krumlov to walk the narrow cobbled streets and arch-covered footpaths and visit the fairy-tale, red-roofed castle, with your Local Expert.

After the day trippers have left, soak up the unique atmosphere of this UNESCO World Heritage Site at a local restaurant. Enjoy a traditional Czech Highlight Dinner of local specialties. (B) (DW)

Hotel Old Inn, Český Krumlov.

### DAY 12 STATELY VIENNA

**Relaxed Start.** Cross the border into Austria and enjoy a delightful journey to Vienna. The afternoon is free for you to explore this stately capital. (B)

Hilton Vienna Park.

### DAY 13 THE HABSBURGS OF VIENNA

Join your Local Expert for a private visit of Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace and its formal gardens.

Take some great photos on a circuit of the Ring Road that showcases architectural masterpieces such as the Opera House, Hofburg Imperial Residence, Austrian Parliament Building and Karlskirche.

Explore Vienna with Insight Choice. Choose between a visit to a traditional Viennese café to enjoy local specialties of coffee and Sachertorte or alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during an inclusive workshop and take to the floor in a Viennese Waltz dance workshop designed to support the visually impaired community.

Enjoy a delicious meal of traditional Austrian fare with drinks at a local restaurant, before sitting down to an extraordinary concert of Viennese classical music. (B) (DW)

### DAY 14 DEPART VIENNA OR BUDAPEST

A transfer arrives at Vienna airport at 08:00 and continues to Budapest airport, arriving early afternoon. For those extending their stay, a stop is also made at the Corinthia Hotel Budapest. (B)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

### 2 🟦 ⑪ BERLIN<sup>2</sup> WARSAW POLAND (Days 5 & 6) (Days 7 & 8) 鉑 GERMANY Częstochowa Dresden KRAKÓW (Days ) fπ 2 ⑪ Wieliczka Salt Mine Auschwitz ò PRAGUE 2 CZECH (Davs 9 & 10) REPUBLIC Oravský Hrad Castle České £ Donovaly Budějovice ČESKÝ KRUMLOV 1 SLOVAKIA (Day 11) Wachau Valley 2 到到 金彩 ⑪ AUSTRIA BUDAPEST VIENNA (Days 12, 13 & 14) (Davs 1, 2 & 14) HUNGARY

### KEY

- 1 Central Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited
- O Optional Place Visited
- Trip Options

### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.

| 2023                          | 2024                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 28                 | <b>APR</b>  26                  |
| <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | <b>MAY  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| AUG   04, 11, 18, 25          | AUG 02,09,16,                   |
| <b>SEP</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | 23,30                           |
| <b>OCT</b>  06                | SEP   06, 13, 20, 27            |
|                               | <b>OCT</b>  04                  |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/dalmatian

Select departures enjoy a hands-on cooking class with the onboard chef.

EASY PACE ACTIVITY LEVEL: **LEISURELY** 

9 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 17 MEALS 10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e9</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup>

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Korčula:** Join Andrea, a passionate local, for a photography walk across the maze of streets and flagstone plazas. Spend time looking for the cultural and natural treasures of the city.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

**Kuna:** Meet the locals and enjoy a typical Farm-to-Table village feast of Croatian delicacies.

Dinner while cruising in Dubrovnik • Captain's Celebration Dinner onboard in Brač.

Taste wine in Bol.

128

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Cruise to the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary • Ride the cable car to the summit of Srd Mountain. Visit Diocletian's Palace in Split • Mijet National Park • a local farm in Kuna.

City tours of Split, Hvar and Dubrovnik, all with Local Experts.

See Veliko Jezero Church and monastery in Kuna Main square, yacht-filled harbour and Renaissance cathedral in Hvar.

# DALMATIAN ELEGANCE

"The beauty of ascending up the Srđ mountain, where west meets east, on the tripoint of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, will leave you breathless. You will enjoy the view of old town Dubrovnik hugged by the city walls, Elaphite archipelago and the horizon where the sky kisses the sea."

- Aida Cvjetkovic, Travel Director





KORČULA



@SKINNYLYNNY, DUBROVNIK

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO THE DALMATIAN COAST

Your private transfer will collect you from Split airport and take you to Cornaro Hotel, located in the heart of the city. Your Local Host will greet you and be on hand to help you decide how to spend your time. Perhaps wander through the Old Town, situated minutes away from your hotel? Maybe enjoy a wine tasting at your hotel, or take in the views from the rooftop bar?

### Cornaro Hotel, Split.

### DAY 2 YOUR ELEGANT CRUISE SHIP

Relaxed Start. After a free morning, your Local Host will accompany you to Split harbour, where your deluxe yacht awaits.

After warm welcome by your Cruise Manager, settle into your cabin. Join your Local Expert for a stroll through the ancient walkways of Diocletian's Palace, which now forms the historic centre of Split. Walk through labyrinthine streets to see St. Duje's, the Temple of Jupiter, the Golden Gate and continue underground to explore the cellars.

### Return to your yacht to enjoy a cocktail and Welcome Dinner with wine at your meet-and-greet party. (B) (DW)

Avangard/Futura.

### DAY 3 CRUISE TO KORČULA

Relaxed Start. Early this morning, depart from Split and journey along the picturesque coast. From the comfort of your cabin window or the breakfast table upstairs, enjoy views of sun-dappled islands during your leisurely start to the day.

### Stop for a lunch of seasonal produce in one of the secluded bays.

Arrive in Korčula where the locals claim Marco Polo was born. Embark on a fascinating photography walk with Andrea, a passionate Local Expert who takes you through the herringbone maze of streets and flagstone plazas.

Then you are at leisure to indulge your taste buds at one of Korčula's many appealing restaurants and bars. (B) (LW)

### **DAY 4** MLJET AND DUBROVNIK

Relaxed Start. Voyage south to the Island of Mljet and join your Cruise Manager for a stroll to Veliko Jezero, the Big Lake of Mljet National Park. A gentle boat ride brings you to the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary, which rises out of the saline waters on its own small island.

### After time to explore, return to your cruise ship for a traditional Croatian lunch.

Set sail for the mighty bastions of Dubrovnik.

As the receding sun casts autumnal hues across the endless sky. drift alongside the monumental city walls and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner served on deck. (B) (LW) (DW)

### DAY 5 DUBROVNIK, A 'PARADISE ON EARTH'

Relaxed Start. Transfer to the medieval Old Town of Dubrovnik for a guided walking exploration. Take the cable car to Srđ Mountain for scenic views over the famous fortifications and the Elaphiti Islands

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Pearl of the Adriatic to explore at your own pace. (B)

### DAY 6 THE PELJEŠAC PENINSULA

Relaxed Start. Start off your day cruising past the beautiful Elaphiti Islands, a summer playground for Dubrovnik's aristocracy during the 16th century. Continue to the Pelješac Peninsula, renowned for its excellent wines.

### Enjoy time to explore before returning to your

cruise ship for an included four-course buffet lunch. After mooring at a small port on the peninsula, travel to Kuna to see the local church, monastery and a nearby farm.

Meet the locals and treat your taste buds to a typical village feast with a Farm-to-Table dinner of Croatian delicacies, freshly made with their own produce. (B) (LW) (DW)

### DAY 7 A VENETIAN DREAM ON HVAR

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a relaxed start this morning onboard your deluxe yacht.

### Drop anchor at the small island of Šćedro, with quiet coves and pristine beauty offering the most irresistible backdrop for lunch.

Cruise west for a chance to swim in the crystal clear waters of the Pakleni Islands. Disembark at Hvar and wander to the town's

magnificent main square with your Local Expert to view the yacht-filled harbour with the Renaissance cathedral forming a stunning backdrop. Spend time exploring the secluded beaches and tiny seafood restaurants, or visit the fortress for superb views over the town and island-studded bay. (B) (LW)

### DAY 8 BOL'S FAMOUS BEACH ON THE ISI AND OF BRAČ

Relaxed Start. Set sail for Bol, the oldest town on the island of Brač.

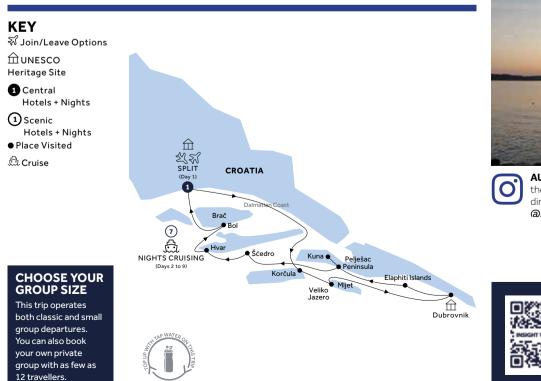
Walk along the promenade and swim at the picture-perfect Zlatni Rat, or Golden Cape, a shifting triangle of sandy beaches, protruding into the cobalt waters of the Adriatic.

### At a local winery, relax with some appetizers and taste some of the revered wines of the island.

The evening is reserved for the Captain's Celebration Dinner with live entertainment. (B) (LW) (D)

### **DAY 9** DEPART SPLIT

Early morning, cruise to Split port, where your trip comes to an end. Transfers are available to Split airport. Please do not schedule flights prior to 12:00.(B)





AUTHENTIC DINING Cruise alongside the towering old city walls while a buffet dinner is served onboard. (Photo by (askinnylynny, Day 4, Dubrovnik)



For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/crcroatia** 

### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

14 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 20 MEALS 18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup>

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Plitvice Lakes National Park: Choose to join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out research to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively, meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Ston:** Meet a local oyster farmer and learn about the cultivation of oysters, before enjoying a delicious Sea-to-Table tasting of fresh shellfish and local wine.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Zagreb • Celebration Dinner with wine and grappa in Dubrovnik.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

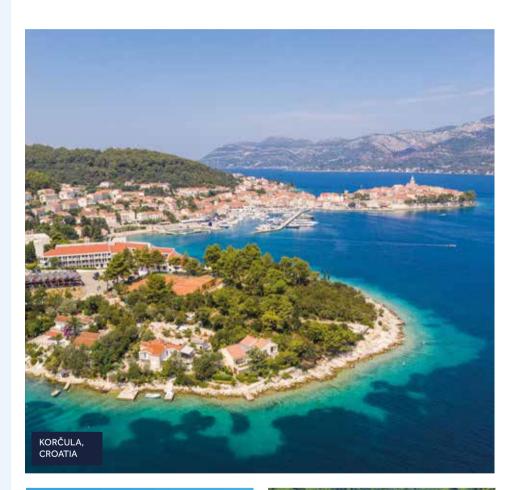
Travel by funicular in Zagreb • Cruise through the islands to Hvar and Korčula, across the scenic bay of Mali Ston and in the bay of Dubrovnik.

Visit Postojna Caves • Pula Arena • Diocletian's Palace in Split. • Zadar.

City tours of Zagreb, Opatija, Split, Korčula and Dubrovnik, all with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF CROATIA

"The sea-to-table experience is always a big hit with guests. You'll enjoy meeting Tomislav or Daniel, who teach you about oyster farming." **– Irina, Travel Director** 





DUBROVNIK



PLITVICE LAKES

A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE



### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO ZAGREB

Transfers to your hotel depart from Zagreb airport at 11:30 and 14:00.

Join your Travel Director at 17:30 for a Welcome Dinner, with the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers over a pleasant evening with wine. (DW)

Sheraton Zagreb Hotel.

### DAY 2 ZAGREB'S TWIN TOWNS

Relaxed Start. Join your Local Expert to explore the two-tiered capital of Croatia. Drive through the squares of the Lower Town, Donji Grad and ride the funicular to the medieval Upper Town, Gornji Grad.(B)

### DAY 3 POSTOJNA CAVES AND RIJEKA

At the world-famous Postojna Caves, descend into a stunning subterranean world. Marvel at the five-metre tall Brilliant, the cave's most beautiful stalagmite. Return to Croatia, where your hotel will be located in Rijeka. (B) (DW)

### Hotel Bonavia Plava Laguna, Rijeka,

### **DAY 4** DISCOVER THE JEWELS OF ISTRIA

Explore the Jewels of Istria with your Local Expert. Visit the well-preserved first-century arena at Pula. Continue to the charming old town of Rovinj, rising directly from the sea. (B)

### **DAY 5** PRISTINE PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy the scenery of the Adriatic coast in the morning - journey past sparkling deep blue seas, studded with rocky islands, before heading inland to visit one of Europe's great natural wonders. Explore Plitvice with Insight Choice. Choose between two MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences: Join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out research to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community. (B) (DW)

### Hotel Lyra, Ličko Petrovo Selo.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site 1 Central

(1) Scenic

🛱 Cruise

You can also book

your own private

12 travellers.

group with as few as

### DAY 6 THE DALMATIAN COAST TO SPLIT

The green forests of Plitvice Lakes National Park give way to pebble-dashed shores lapped by turguoise waters. Walk through the Roman Ruins and market to see the sea organ of Zadar. Witness the dramatic change in landscape, as you travel through Mediterranean olive groves on your way to Trogir, a city founded by the Greeks in 3rd Century B.C. Admire the cathedral and Renaissance Čipiko Palace before continuing to the historic port of Split. (B)

### Hotel President Solin, Split.

### DAY 7 ISLAND HOPPING TO HVAR

Relaxed Start. In the morning, enjoy a walking tour of Split. 1,700 years ago, the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his palace here and today it forms the nucleus of the Old Town. A Local Expert will lead you through the labyrinthine streets and arcaded squares to see St. Duje's - originally Diocletian's Mausoleum - and the Temple of Jupiter, which today is a baptistery, as well as the Golden Gate.

Continue your venture underground, to explore the cellars.

Your island-hopping adventure begins here. Cross the azure waters of the Adriatic to spend two nights on Hvar, famed for being the sunniest island in the country and boasting an interior dotted with lofty mountain peaks and aromatic fields of lavender. (B) (DW)

### Amfora, Hvar Grand Beach Resort.

### **DAY 8** EXPLORING THE ISLAND OF HVAR

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the hidden coves, secluded beaches, old monasteries and villages of Hvar. (B)

### DAY 9 On the Trail of Marco Polo to Korčula

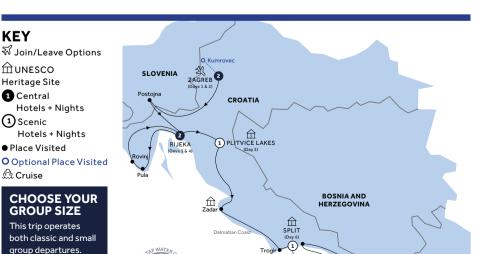
Cruise back to the mainland and continue your journey to the island of Korčula.

This evening, dinner will be at the hotel. (B) (DW)

Hotel Liburna, Korcula.

### DAY 10 CAPTIVATING KORČULA

Relaxed Start. Join a knowledgeable Local Expert for a walking tour of the Old Town. Stroll towards the main square of Korcula where the Cathedral of St. Mark dominates the ancient skyline. (B)



白盘谷

HVAR Days 7 & 8)

KORČULA 2

Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



DAY 11 DUBROVNIK, PEARL OF THE

Journey to the beautiful southern slopes of the

Weather permitting, cruise the tranguil waters of

the bay of Mali Ston and admire the surrounding

untouched natural beauty, as you enjoy a glass of

Stop at a shellfish farm and meet Tomislav, a local

harvest of oysters. Enjoy a delicious Sea-to-Table

tasting of the fresh shellfish, accompanied with a

Continue to the walled town of Dubrovnik, to meet

your Local Expert. Explore the Old Town, passing

Onofrio's Fountain, the Old Jewish Quarter, the

Relaxed Start. Spend the day at your leisure or enjoy an optional visit to Montenegro, travelling

to Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a

Relaxed Start. Make the most of a day at leisure

This evening, should weather permit, embark on a

dazzling cruise around the fabled bay. Gaze out at

grappa, before savouring authentic flavours of local

in the Pearl of the Adriatic. Perhaps take the

Start your Celebration Dinner with a glass of

specialties washed down with locally produced

cathedral and the Franciscan and Dominican

**DAY 12** OPTIONAL MONTENEGRO

**DAY 13** DUBROVNIK AT LEISURE

ovster farmer, to learn about the cultivation and

ADRIATIC

glass of wine.

**EXPERIENCE** 

wine. (B) (DW)

monasteries. (B) (MT)

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace.

photographer's dream. (B)

opportunity to visit Cavtat?

views of the glistening Adriatic.

Pelješac Peninsula.

traditional Croatian brandy.

**INSIGHT EXPERIENCE** Visit a local ovster farmer, to learn about the cultivation and harvesting of oysters. (Photo by (@skinnylynny, Day 11, Dubrovnik)

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MONTENEGRO

£

(3)

| 2023                  | 2024                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 23         | <b>APR</b> 21           |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 21   | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 19     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 18   | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 16, 30 |
| <b>JUL</b> 02, 09, 23 | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21     |
| AUG   06 ,20          | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 18     |
| <b>SEP</b> 03, 17     | SEP   01, 15, 29        |
| <b>OCT</b>  01        |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/easterncapitals

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

14 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Plitvice Lakes National Park: Choose to join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out research to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively, meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Stolac:** Meet the members of a local organisation preserving ancient traditions. Learn about herbal soap making or get a seasonal taste of fig cake.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Sarajevo:** Meet an expert of the Bosnian War for a visit to Sarajevo's Tunnel of Hope and hear a first-hand account of when the city was under siege for 44 months.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Vienna • Dine-Around options in Ljubljana • Dine-at-Home in Sarajevo • Dalmatian Celebration Dinner in Dubrovnik.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by the funicular in Zagreb • Cruise the bay of Dubrovnik.

Visit Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna • Diocletian's Palace in Split.

132

City tours of Vienna, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Split, Mostar and Dubrovnik, all with Local Experts.

# EASTERN CAPITALS & THE DALMATIAN RIVIERA

"On this trip, guests love the visit to Sarajevan families in their homes to see how the local people live and to chat with them over a lovely home-cooked meal." **– Irina, Travel Director** 





SPLIT

MOSTAR BRIDGE, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO VIENNA

On arrival at Vienna airport, your transfer will leave for your hotel at 10:00, 13:00 or 15:30.

Join your Travel Director at 17:30 for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, for a pleasant evening of dinner and wine. (DW)

Hilton Vienna Park.

### DAY 2 EXPLORING STATELY VIENNA

Join a Local Expert for a private tour of Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace and explore its formal gardens at your own pace. Then enjoy a drive around the famous Ring Road, built along the lines of the old city walls. It showcases many of the capital's architectural highlights, including the Opera House, Hofburg Imperial Residence, the Austrian Parliament Building and Karlskirche. (B)

### DAY 3 MARIBOR AND LJUBLJANA

In the morning, cross the border into Slovenia and journey to its second largest city, Maribor. After spending time in this charming location, head to Ljubljana. (B)

### Hotel Lev Ljubljana.

### DAY 4 EXPLORING LOVABLE LJUBLJANA

**Relaxed Start.** Your Local Expert will reveal the Baroque elegance of the Slovenian capital. See the medieval castle, City Hall, Cathedral of St. Nicholas and Triple Bridge. Spend time in the Central Market, rich with heady aromas.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Postojna Caves?

Choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### DAY 5 ZAGREB'S TWIN TOWNS

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to Croatia's capital, Zagreb. Meet your Local Expert for an exploration through Donji Grad, the Lower Town, devoted to art and spacious parks. See the Mimara Art Museum in Roosevelt Square and continue to Ban Josip Jelacic Square en route to the cathedral. Ride the funicular and continue to the medieval Upper Town, to view the former Presidential Palace, Stone Gate, St. Mark's Church and the Lotrščak Tower. (B)

### Sheraton Zagreb Hotel.

### DAY 6 ZAGREB AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** A free day to relax and enjoy a city that is bursting with culture. Perhaps spend time exploring one of the many museums or browsing the shops in Donji Grad? Or join an Optional Experience to the charming village of Kumrovec and meet a local to hear their perspective on the region's history? (B)

### DAY 7 ON TO PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK

Relaxed Start. Journey south to visit one of Europe's great natural wonders. Explore Plitvice with Insight Choice. Choose between two MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences: Join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out research to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community. (B) (DW)

### Hotel Lyra, Ličko Petrovo Selo.

### DAY 8 ALONG THE DALMATIAN COAST

Travel to Trogir, UNESCO World Heritage site, a historic town founded by the Greeks more than 2,300 years ago, and admire the cathedral and Renaissance Cipiko Palace.

Continue to the historic port of Split, where your Local Expert leads you through the labyrinthine streets to the Diocletian's palace. See St. Duje's and the Temple of Jupiter, as well as the Golden Gate. Your exploration then continues underground as you are guided through the cellars. (B)

### Hotel President Solin, Split.

### DAY 9 EXPLORING SPLIT

**Relaxed Start.** Always buzzing, lively Split has just the right balance of tradition and modernity. See Dalmatian life as it's lived with a full day free to explore Split and its surroundings. Why not join an Optional Experience to the island of Hvar? (B) (DW)

### DAY 10 MOSTAR TO SARAJEVO

Cross the border into Bosnia & Herzegovina to reach Mostar and see the famous Stari Most, or Old Bridge, with your Local Expert. Continue to Sarajevo, a town with a turbulent past.

You are invited into a Sarajevan family home for a dinner with drinks. Savour the authentic cuisine as you hear inspirational stories and experience the local culture. (B) (DW)

### Swissotel Sarajevo.

### DAY 11 SARA JEVO, THE CITY OF CULTURE

Morning sightseeing with a Local Expert introduces you to the Sarajevo War Tunnel Museum. Continue along the Milajacka river and see the historic Hapsburg centre of the city. (B)

### DAY 12 STOLAC AND DUBROVNIK

In the morning, travel south to Herzegovina to the ancient village of Stolac for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Choose to learn about the ancient techniques of herbal soap. Alternatively, taste the traditional fig cake. Cross the border back into Croatia and journey to the walled town of Dubrovnik. On arrival, join your Local Expert to explore the stone-paved streets inside the 16th century bastions of the old town. See Onofrio's Fountain and the Rector's Palace and the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries. (B)

### Hotel Dubrovnik Palace.

### DAY 13 OPTIONAL MONTENEGRO EXPERIENCE

**Relaxed Start.** In the morning, why not visit Kotor in Montenegro?

As the sun begins to set, and should the weather permit, join your fellow travel companions for a relaxing cruise around the fabled bay of Dubrovnik.

Enjoy a Celebration Dinner of typical Dalmatian Coast cuisine, accompanied by local wines. (B) (DW)

### DAY 14 DEPART DUBROVNIK

Departure transfers arrive at Dubrovnik airport at 05:00, 09:00 and 11:30. (B)







TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See Ljubljana's iconic bridges with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Orsinsight, Day 4, Ljubljana)



| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 30       | <b>APR</b> 28       |
| <b>MAY  </b> 14, 28 | <b>MAY  </b> 12, 26 |
| JUN   11, 25        | <b>JUN  </b> 09, 23 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 09, 23 | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 06, 20 | <b>AUG </b> 04,18   |
| <b>SEP</b> 03, 17   | SEP   01, 15, 29    |
| <b>OCT</b>  01      |                     |
|                     |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/easterndiscovery

REGIONAL JOURNEY
 ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 ALANCED
 ACTIVITY
 ACTIVITY

14 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e●</sup> 4.3<sup>/5</sup> guest review ★★★☆

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Plitvice Lakes National Park: Choose to join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out research to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively, meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Zagreb • Local Restaurant Dinner in Dubrovnik • Greek-style Celebration Dinner in Athens.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by the funicular in Zagreb. Visit Plitvice National Park • Diocletian's Palace in Split • Sacred Way in Delphi • Parthenon in Athens.

City tours of Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Tirana, Delphi and Athens, all with Local Experts.

See Trogir's Renaissance Cipiko Palace • Kotor • Corfu • Arch of Hadrian and ruins of the Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens.

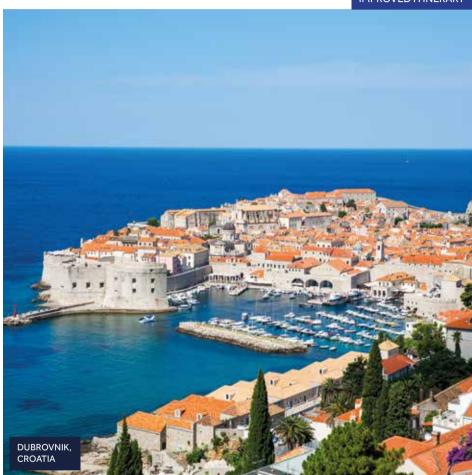
### **SCENIC DRIVES**

134

Enjoy the scenery of Drava River, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Dinaric Alps in Croatia and Montenegro, Albania and the Pindus Mountains and Gulf of Corinth in Greece.

# THE EASTERN DISCOVERY

"One thing I really love to show guests about the Balkans is the variety of beautful landscapes and the fascinating mosaic of cultures." – Sharon, Travel Director





@SHARON\_INSTA, PLITVICE LAKES A **#MAKETRAVELMATTER** EXPERIENCE



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ZAGREB

Transfers to your hotel depart from Zagreb airport at 11:30 and 14:00.

Join your Travel Director at 17:30 for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant with the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers over a pleasant evening with wine. (DW)

Sheraton Zagreb Hotel.

### DAY 2 ZAGREB'S TWIN TOWNS

**Relaxed Start.** Join your Local Expert to explore the two-tiered capital of Croatia. Drive through the squares of the Lower Town, Donji Grad and ride the funicular to the medieval Upper Town, Gornji Grad. (B)

### DAY 3 THE CRYSTAL LAKES OF PLITVICE

**Relaxed Start.** Take this morning to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities. In the afternoon depart for your next hotel, located inside the Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B) (DW)

Hotel Lyra, Ličko Petrovo Selo.

### DAY 4 PLITVICE LAKES, TROGIR AND SPLIT

Explore Plitvice with Insight Choice. Choose between two MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences: Join a Local Expert to explore Plitvice National Park and learn how the site actively carries out researches to monitor the natural habitat of species. Alternatively meet the industrious women of the Tara Community Centre, who produce handicrafts, enabling employment and engagement in the community.

Travel along the coast and visit Trogir, UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its beautiful cathedral and Renaissance Cipiko Palace. Continue to the historic port of Split. (B)

### Hotel President Solin, Split.

### DAY 5 DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE

With your Local Expert explore St. Duje's, originally Diocletian's Mausoleum. Discover the Temple of Jupiter and see the Golden Gate. (B)

### Hotel Kompas Dubrovnik.

12 travellers.

### DAY 6 DUBROVNIK, PEARL OF THE ADRIATIC

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert to explore the stone-paved streets inside the 16th century bastions.

This evening, should weather permit, embark on a dazzling cruise around the fabled bay and gaze out at views of the glistening Adriatic.

Start your dinner with a glass of grappa, before savouring authentic flavours of local specialties and enjoy locally produced wine. (B) (DW)

### DAY 7 MEDITERRANEAN MONTENEGRO

**Relaxed Start.** Stop to visit the old town of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Admire the bay, with its azure waters lapping at the edges of the medieval towns which dot the coastline. Next, make your way along the Adriatic sea to Budva.

Discover the medieval old town, home to religious sites such as the 9th century Church of Santa Maria in Punta. (B)

### Hotel TQ Plaza, Budva.

### DAY 8 SCENIC DRIVE TO TIRANA

Pass spectacular scenery, along ancient olive groves, citrus fields and medieval castles. On arrival in Tirana, join a Local Expert for sightseeing. (B) (DW)

MAK Albania Hotel Tirana.

### DAY 9 ACROSS TO CORFU

Journey across southern Albania, past the Gjerë Mountains, to Greece where you set sail for the cobalt-blue waters of Corfu, renowned for its untamed beauty. (B) (D)

Divani Palace Hotel Corfu.

### DAY 10 RELAX IN CORFU

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy a full day at leisure to relax and enjoy the beautiful island of Corfu. (B)

### **DAY 11** DELPHI, CENTRE OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Set off from your island paradise for Delphi, which hosts a spectacular cliff-side amphitheatre. (B)

### Amalia Hotel Delphi.

### DAY 12 DELPHI SIGHTSEEING AND ON TO ATHENS

Ascend the Sacred Way of Delphi with your Local Expert.

Enjoy a hearty Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in true Greek style. (B) (DW)

Divani Caravel Hotel, Athens.

### DAY 13 THE GLORY OF ATHENS

For guests joining the cruise, you will be transferred to the port, in the morning, to board your ship. Those staying in Athens will join a Local Expert for sightseeing.

Enjoy the glory of ancient Greece from the Parthenon and Acropolis to the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and Hadrian's Arch. (B)

### **DAY 14** DEPART ATHENS

Your journey comes to an end with a transfer to Athens airport. (B)





MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> Choose to join a Local Expert at Plitvice National Park. (Photo by @Sharon\_marion, Day 4, Plitvice Lakes)



MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Choose to visit the Tara Community Centre. (Day 4, Plitvice Lakes)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



135

| 2023                    | 2024                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>  24          | <b>APR</b> 22           |
| MAY 08, 15, 22          | MAY 06, 13, 20          |
| <b>JUN  </b> 05, 12, 19 | <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 17 |
| <b>JUL</b> 03, 17, 31   | <b>JUL  </b> 01, 15, 29 |
| AUG   14, 21, 28        | AUG   12, 19, 26        |
| <b>SEP</b> 04, 11, 18   | SEP   02, 09, 16        |
|                         |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/balkans

® REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

18 DAYS 9 COUNTRIES 27 MEALS 19 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Dubrovnik:** Visit the workshop of Deša, an organisation founded following the Siege of Dubrovnik to help refugees and women who were victims of violence. They have grown to be an important educational centre, workshop and an advocate for women's rights.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Bran:** Learn about the story of the infamous Count Dracula during a private after-hours visit of Bran Castle, followed by dinner.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Sarajevo: Choose to meet an expert on the Bosnian War for a visit to Sarajevo's astonishing Tunnel of Hope. Alternatively, take a guided nature walk to the spring of the Bosna River, a picturesque park just beyond the city.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

**Sarajevo:** You are invited into a Sarajevan family home for a dinner and drinks. Savour the warm hospitality and authentic cuisine as you hear inspirational stories about their culture.

Welcome Dinner in Bucharest • Highlight Dinner in Bran Castle • Folklore show with dinner in Veliko Tarnovo • Dine-Around options in Dubrovnik • Hungarian Celebration Dinner in Budapest.

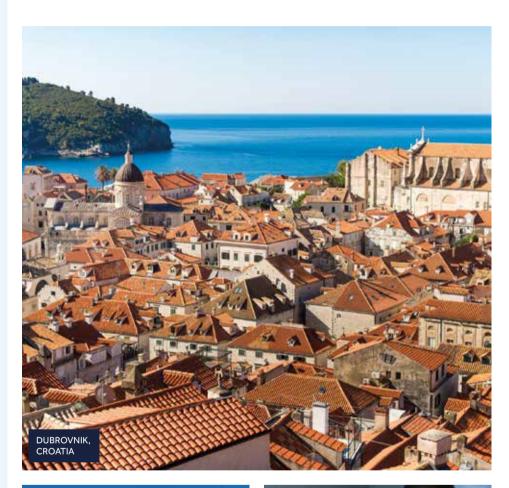
Taste Bosnian coffee in Sarajevo.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest • Peleș Castle in Sinaia • Central Market Hall in Budapest • Tsarevets Fortress • Church of the Holy Nativity in Arbanasii.

# TREASURES OF THE BALKANS

"In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the term Ćefj refers to the ritual of taking time to have a coffee. It's about the time to connect with others or take a quiet moment for oneself." – Sharon, Travel Director





SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA



DINE AT HOME, SARAJEVO

136 Call an Insight Specialist on 0800 568769 or contact your preferred travel advisor

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BUCHAREST

Transfers depart Henri Coandă International Airport at 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00 for your hotel.

At 18:00, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for your Welcome Dinner, served with wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

Athénée Palace Hilton, Bucharest.

### DAY 2 BUCHAREST AND CASTLES OF TRANSYLVANIA

Join a Local Expert for sightseeing to view University Square and the former communist headquarters. Visit the immense Parliament Palace, one of the most impressive buildings in the world.

This evening after the crowds have left enjoy a private visit to the iconic Bran Castle, said to be the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula. Learn about Queen Maria of Romania, the last inhabitant of the castle, visit the torture rooms and relive the tales of the infamous Count Dracula.

Finish with a delicious private dinner in the recently renovated Queen Mary's Tea House. (B) (DW)

### Aro Palace, Brasov.

### **DAY 3** BRASOV AND SINAIA

With your Local Expert, walk around Town Hall Square, lined with beautiful red-roofed houses and dominated by the Black Church. Travel along the Prahova Valley to the elegant mountain resort of Sinaia to visit Peleş Castle. Led by a local historian, admire the lavish rooms filled with art, armor and tapestries. Return through the Carpathian Mountains to the charming medieval city of Braşov. (B)

### DAY 4 VELIKO TARNOVO

Continue to Veliko Tarnovo.

Enjoy a Highlight Dinner of local specialties and wine, followed by an authentic folklore show. (B) (DW)

Yantra Hotel, Veliko Tarnovo.

### DAY 5 TO SOFIA

Relaxed Start. Meet your Local Expert to visit Tsarevets Fortress for stunning views. At the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Arbanasi, visit a traditional 17th century merchant's house and the Church of the Holy Nativity. Cross the Balkan Mountains to Sofia and join a Local Expert to explore. (B) (DW)

InterContinental Sofia.

### DAY 6 SOFIA AT YOUR PACE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy the day at your leisure. Perhaps visit the Rila Monastery? (B)

### DAY 7 SKOPJE

Cross the border and continue to Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia, for sightseeing with a Local Expert. (B) (DW)

Bushi Resort & Spa, Skopje.

### DAY 8 LAKE OHRID AND TIRANA

Making your way to the border, stop by the scenic Lake Ohrid. Cross into Albania and journey to Tirana. Continue to the landmark Skanderbeg Square for an insider's look at the Albanian capital. (B) (DW)

MAK Albania Hotel Tirana.

### DAY 9 KOTOR AND DUBROVNIK

Journey to the Old Town of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue to the fortified port of Dubrovnik.

At night, you may choose from a fine selection of restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### Hotel Kompas Dubrovnik.

### DAY 10 DUBROVNIK SIGHTSEEING

Relaxed Start. Join a Local Expert to see Onofrio's Fountain and the Rector's Palace, the city walls and the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries. Visit the workshop of Deša during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This important educational centre supports vulnerable communities and promotes local cultural heritage. (B)

### **DAY 11** DUBROVNIK, PARADISE ON EARTH

**Relaxed Start.** Spend a day at leisure in the Pearl of the Adriatic. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to learn about olive oil traditions at an ancient mill, followed by a delightful home-cooked meal. (B)

### DAY 12 MOSTAR AND SARAJEVO

Journey to Mostar. With your Local Expert, see the famous Stari Most, the Old Bridge. Explore the cobbled streets of the Old Town, stretching on both sides of the bridge and filled with shops selling traditional handicrafts.

Follow the scenic route to Sarajevo.

A unique and rewarding insight into the local way of life awaits, as you are invited into a Sarajevan family for dinner and wine. (B) (DW)

### Swissotel Sarajevo.

### DAY 13 SARAJEVO, CITY OF CULTURE

Explore Sarajevo with Insight Choice. Choose to meet an expert on the Bosnian War for a visit to Sarajevo's astonishing Tunnel of Hope. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® nature walk to the spring of the Bosna River, a protected park just beyond the city, led by a conservation guide. (B)

### **DAY 14** THE SERBIAN CAPITAL OF BELGRADE

**Relaxed Start.** Trace your way along the Drina River. Take in beautiful landscapes of lush, green mountains that create magical forest canyons, winding your way through deep valleys as you make your way to Belgrade. (B) (DW)

Radisson Collection Hotel, Old Mill Belgrade.

### DAY 15 THE BEST OF BELGRADE

**Relaxed Start.** Join a Local Expert to see the best of Belgrade and enjoy a free afternoon to relax. (B)

### DAY 16 ACROSS TO BUDAPEST

Relaxed Start. Travel to Palić and see the picturesque lake. Continue on through to Budapest. (B)

Hotel Nemzeti Budapest - MGallery.

### DAY 17 BUDAPEST, QUEEN OF THE DANUBE

Explore Buda with a Local Expert and marvel at the variety of architectural styles that adorn the city. In Pest, visit Heroes' Square and wander through the Central Market Hall, a foodie's paradise.

Tonight you are in for a treat with your Celebration Dinner. Dine in elegance as you savour hearty, Hungarian delicacies. (B) (DW)

### DAY 18 DEPART BUDAPEST

Departure transfers arrive at Ferenc Liszt International Airport at 07:00 and 11:00. (B)



∛ Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

**KEY** 

ûunesco

1 Central

(1) Scenic

Place Visited

Heritage Site

### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





**2023 NOV |** 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29

DEC | 03, 05, 06, 07

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/alpinexmas

This trip combines perfectly with **Christmas Markets of Germany**, allowing you to experience more of what Germany has to offer during the winter months.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

9 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 13 MEALS 12 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Salzburg:** Experience a Musical Demonstration at Mozart's Birthplace in Salzburg.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Innsbruck:** Choose to enjoy a horse and carriage ride. Alternatively, visit the magical world of Swarovski Crystal.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Munich • Dinner with Tyrolean entertainment in Innsbruck • Dinner in the Black Forest • Swiss Celebration Dinner in Zurich.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Embrace the magic of Christmas time in Europe. Departures explore Christmas markets in Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Strasbourg, Freiburg and Zurich. City tour of Salzburg with a Local Expert.

DAY 1 - 2 Munich Marriott Hotel.
DAY 3 - 4 AC Hotel Innsbruck.
DAY 5 - 7 Hotel Stadt Lörrach, Loerrach.
DAY 8 Mövenpick Hotel Zürich-Airport.



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

# ALPINE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

"Guests love meeting our Local Expert in Salzburg; visiting the Old Town and the charming Christmas Market is a highlight." - Carl, Travel Director



Transfers from Munich airport to your stylish hotel depart at 10:00 and 13:00 After your orientation, spend time at the traditional Christmas Market in Marienplatz. surrounded by the fragrance of Bavarian delicacies. Stop in baroque Salzburg, 'alive with the sound of music,' and visit Mozart's family home. Explore Innsbruck with Insight Choice. Choose to enjoy a relaxed horsedrawn carriage ride. Alternatively, visit the quirky headquarters of Swarovski Crystal. Return to Germany and discover the old town

of Lindau, located on a small island in Lake Constance. Visit the lively university town of Freiburg, the jewel of the Black Forest. Cross the mighty Rhine river and visit Strasbourg in the Alsace region. Look out for local bite-sized 'bredele' biscuits at France's oldest Christmas market. Travel to Zurich in Switzerland and taste sustainable chocolates on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> Experience. On your final day, transfers to the airport depart every 15 minutes.



KEY ¾ Join/Leave Options ⊕ UNESCO Heritage Site ❶ Central Hotels + Nights ① Scenic Hotels + Nights ● Place Visited O Optional Place Visited ⚠ Christmas Markets

# ALPS, CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

# CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF POLAND, PRAGUE & GERMANY

"I always teach quests how to say cheers in German, 'prost!' We have a great evening with lots of fun in Berlin and guests raise their glasses with a loud 'prost'!" - Petra, Travel Director



Arrival transfers from Kraków airport to your central hotel depart at 12:30 and 15:00. Stroll through the medieval streets of Kraków, from Wawel Roval Castle to the spectacular Market Square with your Local Expert. In Wroclaw, the 13th century Town Hall watches over its inviting Christmas Market. Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose a walk through the castle courtyards and a visit to the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert on an exploration of the Jewish Quarter, uncovering the history and traditions of the

neighborhood. Sample a delicious mug of mulled wine, known as Svařák, and the popular Trdelník pastry at the Old Town Christmas Market. Visit Dresden as you arrive in Germany and see the world's largest Christmas pyramid. Berlin awaits with its fascinating history, festive cheer and Christmas markets, dotted all around the city. Toast new friendships over a Celebration Dinner, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. On the last day of your trip departure transfers arrive at Berlin airport at 07:00 and 10:00.



### **TRIP START DATES**

2023 **NOV** 19, 21, 26, 28 DEC 03,05

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/xmaspoland

**© REGIONAL JOURNEY** ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

8 DAYS **3 COUNTRIES** 11 MEALS 9 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoe 4.4/5 GUEST REVIEW

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Berlin: Support Refugees by Dining at Kreuzberger Himmel.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Prague: Choose to join a Local Expert to explore the courtyards of Prague Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, stroll through the Jewish Quarter with your Local Expert.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Prague mulled wine and pastry tasting. Welcome Dinner in Kraków • Celebration Dinner in Berlin

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Embrace the magic of Christmas time in Europe. Select departures explore Christmas markets in Kraków, Wroclaw, Prague, Dresden and Berlin

DAY 1 - 2 Vienna House Andel's Cracow, Kraków.

DAY 3 Radisson Blu Hotel, Wroclaw.

DAY 4 - 5 Hotel Royal Prague.

DAY 6 - 7 Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre.



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

KEY 🛪 Join/Leave Options 🏛 UNESCO Heritage Site 🚯 Central Hotels + Nights 🛛 Place Visited 🖉 Optional Place Visited 🛕 Christmas Markets

## **#INSIGHTMOMENTS**

By our guests and Travel Directors



CHANTAL\_INSIGHT



BROWNEYES09897 MONT BLANC, FRENCE



(a)HONS\_PHOTOS
 PROVENCE, FRANCE



GERSON LANGE CANALS OF AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS



(a)HONS\_PHOTOS PARISIAN CAROUSEL, FRANCE



OICEFUNKLE
 MONT-BLANC TRAMWAY,
 FRANCE



BRRET. ROBINSON.58555 BERBIE PALACE, FRANCE



(a) ALEXKACHUKTD
 KEUKENHOF GARDENS,
 THE NETHERLANDS



# France, Belgium & the Netherlands



Country Roads of Belgium, Luxembourg & the Netherlands 11 DAYS | PAGE 142

Normandy, Brittany & the Loire Valley 8 DAYS | PAGE 144

Country Roads of France 16 DAYS | PAGE 146

French Heritage 22 DAYS | PAGE 148

Scan this code with

the camera on your smart phone to

watch a video about

France.

WWI Battlefields



| 2023                       | 2024                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, | <b>MAR  </b> 30           |
| 29                         | <b>APR</b> 06, 13, 20, 27 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 06, 13, 27    | MAY 04, 11, 25            |
| <b>JUN</b> 10, 24          | <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22       |
| <b>JUL</b> 08, 22          | <b>JUL  </b> 06, 20       |
| <b>AUG  </b> 05, 19        | AUG   03, 17, 31          |
| SEP 02, 16, 30             | <b>SEP</b>   14, 28       |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crbelgium

Visit **Keukenhof Gardens** on select departures.

### A COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

11 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 13 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup>

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Brussels:** Experience a Dine-Around Evening. Diverse options reflect the cosmopolitan nature of the city, including We Exist, an initiative supporting Syrian immigrants.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Monnickendam:** Visit a delightful rustic workshop, and take a step back in time to learn the arts of cheese and clog making.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Brussels:** Choose between visiting Waterloo and the Panorama mural, to learn about Napoleon's final defeat. Alternatively, join a private chocolate truffle-making lesson and tasting with a master chocolatier, and later explore Brussels further with a Local Expert.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

**Luxembourg:** At restaurant Les Écuires du Parc, savour a freshly prepared farm-to-table meal of locally sourced, seasonal produce.

Welcome Dinner in Brussels • Choice of Dine-Around options in Brussels • Celebration Dinner in Monnickendam.

Taste Chimay Trappist beer and cheese.

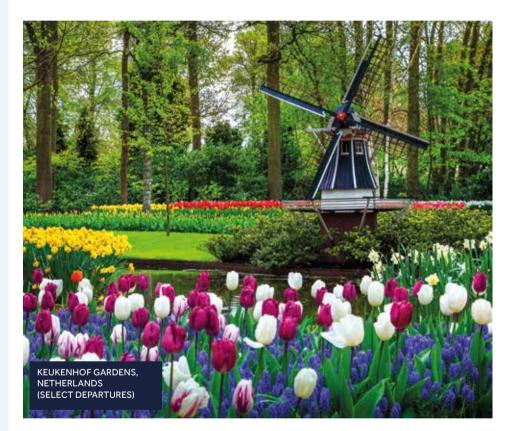
### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Cruise on the canals of Amsterdam. Visit the Bastogne War Museum • Delft Pottery Workshop.

City tours of Ghent, Bruges and Luxembourg City, all with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG & THE NETHERLANDS

"The architecture throughout Brussels, and the quaint Belgian towns of Bruges and Ghent, is incredibly impressive and among some of the most intricate in Europe." **– Nathalie, Travel Director** 





MARKET SQUARE, BRUGES



LUXEMBOURG

142

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BRUSSELS

Airport transfers depart Brussels airport for your hotel at 09:00, 11:00 and 14:30. Join your Travel Director at 17:00 for a visit to the cheeky Manneken Pis statue and a leisurely stroll around the Grand Place.

Your delightful first evening also includes a Welcome Dinner with drinks, at a local restaurant in the heart of the Old Town. (DW)

### NH Collection Brussels Centre.

### DAY 2 THE BATTLEFIELD OF WATERLOO OR CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE MAKING LESSON

Relaxed Start. Explore Brussels with Insight Choice. Learn about Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo or alternatively, join a private chocolate truffle making lesson and tasting with a master chocolatier, and further explore Brussels with a Local Expert.

Return to Brussels, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to the lively city of Antwerp.

In the evening, choose from a selection of handpicked local restaurants on your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### DAY 3 GHENT AND ON TO BRUGES

In the morning, admire the contrast of the Chinese and Japanese Pavilions and the impressive, metallic spheres of the Atomium. Your journey then crosses the pasture lands of Belgian Flanders to reach Ghent, the City of Flowers, offering a fascinating cultural mix of medieval heritage and modern urban life. With a Local Expert, take a stroll through the historical streets and be mesmerised by the outstanding beauty of its guays, churches and squares. Visit St. Bavo's Cathedral, former home of the Eyck masterpiece, and see the Castle of the Counts. We continue to Bruges, where you'll stay for the next two nights. (B)

Radisson Blu Hotel, Bruges.

**KEY** 

ûunesco

Heritage Site

1 Central

(1) Scenic

Place Visited

12 travellers.

### **DAY 4** SIGHTSEEING BRUGES

Relaxed Start. Meet your Local Expert in Bruges for a stroll along cobbled streets, lined with high-gabled houses from the 16th century. Visit the Market Square, dominated by the 83-metre medieval bell tower, The Belfry of Bruges. Explore Burg Square with its ornate Gothic town hall.(B)

### **DAY 5** LUXEMBOURG

Travel into the French-speaking region of Wallonia, where picturesque country roads lead you to the late 19th century Scourmont Abbey. Visit the Chimay Experience to learn about the production secrets of Chimay Trappist beers. Your visit concludes with a sample of freshly brewed beer and a taste of golden-crusted cheese. Continue on to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to arrive at your 18th century château home for two niahts.

### In the evening, you will be served a fresh and delicious Farm-to-Table Dinner at restaurant L'Écurie du Parc.

See the 12th century Clervaux Castle illuminated on your stroll after dinner. (B) (DW)

### Château d'Urspelt (Castle Rooms), Clervaux.

### **DAY 6** LUXEMBOURG CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE

Your travels continue to Luxembourg City for sightseeing with your Local Expert. Visit the grave of U.S. General George S. Patton and admire the view over the Petrusse Ravine from the Pont Adolphe. Stroll through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the cathedral and the Palace of the Grand Duke.

With the afternoon free for you to explore at your leisure, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the ancient Roman city of Trier. (B) (DW)

### **DAY 7** EXPLORE BASTOGNE THEN ON TO ROTTERDAM

Head for Bastogne to visit the Mardasson Monument, dedicated to the U.S. troops who died during Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Visit the interactive memorial centre of Bastogne War Museum

Your journey continues to Rotterdam. During your orientation with your Travel Director. see the impressive market hall and its radical modern design. (B)

### Inntel Hotels Rotterdam Centre.

### **DAY 8** DELFT AND THE HAGUE

Visit one of the manufacturers of original Delft blue pottery and see the potters at work. Continue on to the Hague to see the Binnenhof courtyards where the Parliament is situated and the impressive Peace Palace. Select departures

visit Keukenhof Gardens one of the world's largest flower gardens, an unforgettable experience not to he missed Pass through picturesque villages and windmills of

the Dutch countryside to Amsterdam. (B)

### Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam.

### **DAY 9** AMSTERDAM SIGHTSEEING

Relaxed Start. Today you explore Amsterdam, a living museum of the 17th century, yet still a vibrant metropolis and port. Cruise through the canal district, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and admire the elegant merchant houses from the 16th and 17th centuries. Relax as you pass stunning gables, beautiful churches and the iconic Skinny Bridge. Disembark your cruise to wander the city and see the floating flower market, Dam Square and the Royal Palace. (B)

### DAY 10 A TRUE DUTCH DELIGHT

Relaxed Start. Later, in Amsterdam, visit the Rijksmuseum with a local art historian. Journey to the fishing village of Monnikendam, learn the secrets of cheese makers craft and witness a traditional shoemaker turn a block of wood into clogs.

In the evening, join your newfound friends and Travel Director at a beautiful restaurant in Monnikendam to enjoy your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

### **DAY 11** DEPART AMSTERDAM

Transfers to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport arrive at 08:00 and 10:00. (B)





Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

### Keukenhof ∛ Join/Leave Options The Hag THE NETHERLANDS Delft 1 ROTTERDAM Hotels + Nights 俞 BRUGES Hotels + Nights 公 丘 BRUSSELS Ghent O Optional Place Visited 9 ÓYpr Waterloo BELGIUM **CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE** This trip operates both classic and small FRANCE group departures. Bastogne You can also book Chima your own private group with as few as boura Citv LUXEMBOURG

| 2023<br>APR   01, 08, 15, 22,<br>29<br>MAY   06, 13, 20, 27<br>JUN   03, 10, 17, 24<br>JUL   01, 08, 15, 22, 29<br>AUG   05, 12, 19, 26<br>SEP   02, 09, 16, 23, 30<br>OCT   07, 14 | 2024<br>MAR   30<br>APR   06, 13, 20, 27<br>MAY   04, 11, 18, 25<br>JUN   01, 08, 15, 22, 29<br>JUL   06, 13, 20, 27<br>AUG   03, 10, 17, 24, 31<br>SEP   07, 14, 21, 28 |
|---|--|
| <b>OCT  </b> 07, 14   | OCT   05, 12   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/normandy

Why not combine this trip with **Country Roads of France** to fully experience France?

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

8 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 10 MEALS 11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Loire Valley: Discover the sustainable gardens of Château de Villandry. In the scenic Loire Valley, explore France's finest formal gardens. Now a hub for sustainability preserving the estate's biological diversity, learn how the organically grown herbs help to re-generate the local ecosystem.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Deauville:** Choose to visit the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and see the remnants of the artificial port in the bay. Alternatively, visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and learn about the epic story of William, Duke of Normandy becoming the King of England.

### AUTHENTIC DINING

**Château de Rochecotte:** Enjoy a delicious farm-to-table Celebration Dinner, prepared with fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Welcome Dinner in Paris.

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Taste wine in the Loire Valley.

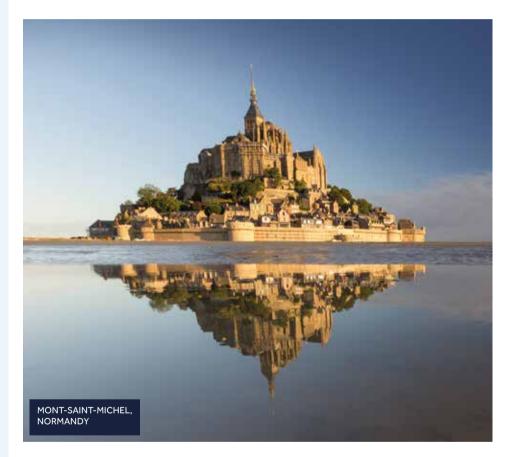
### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Mont Saint-Michel and Chateau d'Azay Le Rideau, both with Local Experts .

City tours of St. Malo and Normandy Landing Beaches, both with Local Experts.

# NORMANDY, BRITTANY & THE LOIRE VALLEY

"Guests are enlightened by Anne, our Local Expert in Normandy, who brings the landing operation to life with various anecdotes shared by her grandparents, who experienced World War II." – Emmanuelle, Travel Director





CHÂTEAU D'AZAY-LE-RIDEAU, LOIRE VALLEY



OMAHA BEACH, NORMANDY

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO PARIS

On arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport, transfers leave for the hotel at 09:00, 11:30 and 14:00. After checking in, the capital's grand boulevards and world-famous landmarks are yours to explore. At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow guests at the hotel before enjoying a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant with cuisine inspired by fresh home-made recipes. (DW)

#### Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

#### DAY 2 ROUEN, HONFLEUR AND DEAUVILLE

Follow the River Seine to Rouen, capital of Normandy, to admire its ancient cathedral - a masterpiece of Gothic style and the subject of a series of paintings by Claude Monet. Wander through the narrow streets beneath the Great Clock to the Old Market Square. Here, a superb modern church commemorates the burning of Joan of Arc on this very spot in 1431. Continue to the charming fishing town of Honfleur and to your luxurious hotel, located in the chic seaside resort of Deauville. (B)

#### Hotel Barrière L'Hôtel du Golf, Deauville.

## DAY 3 NORMANDY BEACHES AND D-DAY LANDINGS

Follow the route of the Rangers and visit the bunkers and the Rangers Memorial at Pointe du Hoc.

With a Local Expert, spend a few reflective moments at the American Military Cemetrey of Saint-Laurent, near Omaha Beach.

Explore Normandy with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and see the remnants of the artificial port in the bay. Alternatively, visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and learn about the epic story of William, Duke of Normandy becoming the King of England.

This evening, you are treated to a delightful dinner, which promises creative cuisine, seasonal ingredients and delicious wines. (B) (DW)

# DAY 4 MONT SAINT-MICHEL AND SAINT-MALO

Journey through Bocage country and explore the hilltop abbey of Mont Saint-Michel with your Local Expert. Situated on an island, the abbey is reached by a bridge across the shining sands. Continue along the Emerald Coast to stunning Saint-Malo, situated on the Rance Estuary and one of the most charming places in France. A Local Expert will take you on an exploration of the City of the Corsairs. Walk through the maze of streets of Intra Muros, the walled city, home of Jacques Cartier and other celebrated voyagers. (B)

#### Hôtel Le Nouveau Monde, St Malo.

#### **DAY 5** VILLANDRY EXPERIENCE

Head south to follow the valley of the Loire, passing the moated Angers Castle.

Cross the Loire to Saumur, where a local vintner will guide you through tastings of the region's delicious wines.

Head to Château de Villandry, the jewel of the Loire, to visit the glorious sustainable gardens on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Ensure you don't miss the water, ornamental and kitchen gardens. This stunning sea of fragrant green herbs, silvery cabbages and purple basil which has been grown organically to regenerate the local ecosystem. Continue to your chateau hotel, where you can relax like royalty in sumptuous surroundings. (B)

#### Château De Rochecotte, Saint Patrice, Loire Valley/Hotel Anne d'Anjou, Saumur.

## DAY 6 SCENIC DRIVE ALONG THE LOIRE VALLEY

Journey to the fairy-tale Château d'Azayle-Rideau, considered one of the best representations of French Renaissance architecture. Having recently undergone extensive restoration, your Local Expert will show you the subtle blend of French tradition and innovative Italian decor within this 16th century icon of the Loire Valley.

Return to your superb chateau for relaxation and free time.

This evening, your Celebration Dinner starts with a glass of local sparkling wine and continues with excellent service and delicious Farm-to-Table dishes in the most wholesome setting, ensuring the memory of your meal will linger long after you've returned home. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 7 LA BEAUCE AND CHARTRES TO PARIS, CITY OF LIGHT

Traveling through the vast wheat fields of the the Beauce region, Chartres Cathedral, nicknamed the 'Acropolis of France' by August Rodin, looms large on the horizon. Enjoy a guided tour of this architectural delight.

From here, return to the French capital where your Travel Director introduces you to all the fabulous sights, including the magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral and the immense facades of the Louvre. Behold the vast Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine once stood, then travel down the Champs Élysées to Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe. After dark, the City of Light really lives up to its name, when the monuments, buildings and bridges are lit up in all their glory.

For that special touch of excitement and glamour, don't miss the chance to experience a worldfamous cabaret shows. (B)

#### Pullman Paris Centre Bercy.

#### DAY 8 AU REVOIR PARIS

Your departure transfer will arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 or 11:00. (B)





MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Head to Château de Villandry, the jewel of the Loire. (Photo by @Chantal\_insight, Day 5, Loire Valley)

#### KEY

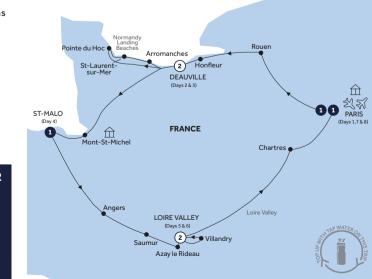
✓ Join/Leave Options
 Ⅲ UNESCO
 Heritage Site
 ■ Central

Hotels + Nights (1) Scenic Hotels + Nights

#### Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.





| 2023                     | 2024   |
|--------------------------|--|
| APR   08, 15, 22, 29     | APR   06, 13, 20, 27                           |
| MAY   06, 13, 20, 27     | MAY   04, 11, 18, 25                           |
| JUN   03, 10, 17, 24     | JUN   01, 08, 15, 22,                          |
| JUL   01, 15, 29         | 29   |
| AUG   12, 26             | JUL   13, 27                                   |
| SEP   02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | AUG   10, 24, 31                               |
| OCT   07                 | SEP   07, 14, 21, 28                           |
| <b>OCT </b> 07           | <b>SEP  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28<br><b>OCT  </b> 05 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/crfrance** 

Why not combine this trip with **Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley** to fully experience France?

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

16 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 22 MEALS 22 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Provence:** Taste sustainably produced wines and olive oils at Domaine de la Vallongue.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Saint-Paul-de-Vence: Join a pétanque player to learn the secrets behind this traditional French discipline. End with a glass of pastis, a French apéritif.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Paris:** Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local delicacies.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Paris • Dinner in Grenoble • Farm-to-Table dining in Dordogne • Celebration Dinner in Paris.

Taste champagne in the Champagne region • Market tasting in Cahors.

#### **SCENIC DRIVES**

Relax and enjoy the scenery of the French countryside as you travel through Burgundy, the High Alps, along the Route Napoleon and French Riviera, past Cote d'Azur, Avignon, the Languedoc and through the Dordogne Valley.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF FRANCE

"You'll be amazed by the diverse landscapes we see on this trip. We travel through rich agricultural lands to the snow-capped Alps, and we follow the historic Napoleonic Road to the breathtaking French Riviera." – Laura, Travel Director





ROCAMADOUR, FRANCE



BERBIE PALACE, ALBI

146

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO PARIS

On arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport, transfers leave for the hotel at 09:00, 11:30 and 14:00. After checking in, the capital's grand boulevards and world-famous landmarks are yours to explore. At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow guests at the hotel before joining a Welcome Dinner at Brasserie Bofinger, a local restaurant with cuisine inspired by country recipes. (DW)

#### Pullman Paris Centre Bercy.

## DAY 2 CHAMPAGNE REGION AND ON TO DIJON

Journey through the Champagne region.

Stop to savour a taste of champagne, for which this region is world famous.

Continue to Dijon. (B) (DW)

Grand Hotel Dijon La Cloche, Dijon.

#### DAY 3 FREE TIME IN DIJON

**Relaxed Start.** With your day at leisure, perhaps visit the wine capital of Beaune? (B)

#### **DAY 4** CHAMONIX

Travel towards the Mâconnais and Beaujolais and ascend into the high Alps to the fashionable ski resort of Chamonix. (B)

Hotel Mercure Chamonix.

#### DAY 5 LAKESIDE ANNECY AND GRENOBLE

**Relaxed Start.** Embark on a beautiful journey to Annecy, dramatically situated between lake and mountains. Enjoy free time for lunch in Little Venice, aptly named for the network of canals criss-crossing through the Old Town.

This evening, savour a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

Park Hôtel Grenoble-MGallery.

#### DAY 6 THE FRENCH RIVIERA TO REACH NICE

Continue to the French Riviera to reach the elegant resort of Nice.(B)

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Nice.

#### DAY 7 MONACO AND THE CÔTE D'AZUR

Unlock the secrets of the French perfume industry with a visit to a perfumery.

Then enjoy a drive along part of the Grand Prix circuit in Monaco and walk with your Travel Director through the old town to see the Royal Palace and yacht-filled harbour.

Your exploration continues as you visit inside Monaco Cathedral. (B)

#### **DAY 8** PICTURESQUE PROVENCE

Visit the medieval village of Saint-Paul de Vence and walk through its winding streets. Enjoy a lesson in the French sport of pétanque. Steady your hand and get ready to test your newfound skills as you take part in a game, completed by a glass of pastis, a French apéritif. Continue to Aix-en-Provence to see the sumptuous mansions lining the Cours Mirabeau. (B)

#### Aquabella Hotel & Spa, Aix-en-Provence.

#### DAY 9 AVIGNON AND PONT DU GARD

Journey to Pont du Gard to see the magnificent ancient Roman aqueduct bridge. Continue on to Avignon to enjoy views of the remaining arches of the Pont d'Avignon and the fortified Papal Palace.

Stop at the beautiful Domaine de la Vallongue for a tasting of its renowned wines and gastronomic olive oils. A MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, the estate uses traditional practices throughout, creating a sustainable business for future generations. (B)

#### DAY 10 CARCASSONNE AND TO ALBI

Head to beautiful Arles and learn about its historical connection to Vincent Van Gogh. Cross the fertile Languedoc region, to the fortified town of Carcassonne.

Travel to Albi and marvel at iconic sites during your orientation, including the views of the Toulouse Lautrec Museum and the cathedral. (B)

Hôtel Saint Antoine, Albi.

#### DAY 11 FREE TIME IN ALBI

Enjoy a full day at leisure, to relax and soak up the atmosphere of Albi.

This evening savour a delicious dinner of carefully selected fresh ingredients, at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 CAHORS AND ROCAMADOUR

Relaxed Start. Sample some local Dordogne specialties when you visit the market at Cahors, famous for its black wine.

Travel to Rocamadour and enjoy free time to explore this medieval town. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Le Perigord/Hotel Anne d'Anjou.

#### DAY 13 EXPLORING THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

Start the day with a morning drive into the stunning Valley of the Dordogne to visit Lascaux II, where the world-famous prehistoric cave paintings have been faithfully reproduced.

Enjoy a delicious Farm-to-Table Dinner, prepared with locally sourced ingredients and served with wines from the region. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 PARIS, THE CITY OF LIGHT

Travel onwards to immerse yourself in the beautiful city of Paris. (B)  $% \left( B\right) =0$ 

Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

#### DAY 15 ROMANTIC CAPITAL ON THE SEINE

During your time in Paris see the Eiffel Tower, the facades of the Louvre, the obelisk in Place de la Concorde and drive along the Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join a Local Expert, an avid foodie, to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies.

#### Enjoy a Celebration Dinner at the historic restaurant La Coupole. Delight in French cuisine and delicious wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 16 AU REVOIR PARIS

Your departure transfer will arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 or 11:00. (B)





**TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** See the ancient Pont d'Avignon. (Photo by @Chantal\_ insight, Day 9, Pont d'Avignon)





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| <b>JUL  </b> 01, 15, 29     | <b>JUL  </b> 13, 27             |
| AUG   12, 26                | AUG   10, 24, 31                |
| SEP   02, 09, 16, 23, 30    | SEP   07, 14, 21, 28            |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/frenchheritage

Extend your trip to also explore the **WW1 Battlefields**. See p.151 for details.

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

22 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 30 MEALS 32 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Provence:** Taste sustainably produced wines and olive oils at Domaine de la Vallongue.

#### INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

Saint-Paul-de-Vence: Join a pétanque player to learn the secrets behind this traditional French discipline. End with a glass of pastis, a French apéritif.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Deauville:** Choose to visit the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and see the remnants of the artificial port in the bay. Alternatively, visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and learn about the epic story of William, Duke of Normandy becoming the King of England.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

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Welcome Dinner in Paris • Dinner in Grenoble • Farm-to-Table dining in Dordogne • Highlight Dinner in Paris • Farm-to-Table dining at Château de Rochecotte.

Taste local delicacies in Cahors market.

# FRENCH HERITAGE

"I became a Travel Director so that I could share my enthusiasm for discovery, show Europe to our guests and help them experience the beauty, history and culture first-hand." **– Shona, Travel Director** 





CHAMPAGNE TASTING



EIFFEL TOWER, PARIS

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#### Pullman Paris Centre Bercy.

## DAY 2 CHAMPAGNE REGION AND ON TO DIJON

Journey through the Champagne region. Stop to savour a taste of Champagne, for which this region is world famous. (B) (DW)

Grand Hotel Dijon La Cloche, Dijon.

#### DAY 3 FREE TIME IN DIJON

**Relaxed Start.** With your day at leisure, perhaps visit the wine capital of Beaune? (B)

#### **DAY 4** CHAMONIX

Travel towards the Mâconnais and Beaujolais and ascend into the high Alps to the fashionable ski resort of Chamonix. (B)

Hotel Mercure Chamonix.

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**Relaxed Start.** Embark on a beautiful journey to Annecy, dramatically situated between lake and mountains. Enjoy free time for lunch in Little Venice, aptly named for the network of canals criss-crossing through the Old Town.

This evening, savour a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

Park Hôtel Grenoble-MGallery.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Central

Heritage Site

র্ম Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

**O**Optional Place Visited

Place Visited

#### DAY 6 THE FRENCH RIVIERA TO REACH NICE

Continue to the French Riviera to reach the elegant resort town of Nice. (B)  $% \left( {{\rm{R}}} \right)$ 

#### Radisson Blu Hotel, Nice.

#### DAY 7 MONACO AND THE CÔTE D'AZUR

Wake up ready to rub shoulders with the jet-set on the glamorous Côte d'Azur.

Unlock the secrets of the French perfume industry with a visit to a perfumery, where fragrance experts waft exclusive scents from stoppered bottles. Then enjoy a drive along part of the Grand Prix circuit in Monaco and walk with your Travel Director through the old town to see the Royal Palace and yacht-filled harbour.

Your exploration continues as you visit inside Monaco Cathedral, housing the tomb of Princess Grace.

The rest of the day is set aside for you to enjoy the French Riviera at your own pace. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to visit to the medieval village of Eze and its hilltop Botanical Gardens for a spectacular view of the coastline. (B)

#### **DAY 8** PICTURESQUE PROVENCE

Visit the medieval village of Saint-Paul de Vence and walk through its winding streets. Enjoy a lesson in the French sport of pétanque. Continue to Aix-en-Provence to see the sumptuous mansions lining the Cours Mirabeau. (B)

#### Aquabella Hotel & Spa, Aix-en-Provence.

#### DAY 9 AVIGNON AND PONT DU GARD

Journey to Pont du Gard to see the magnificent ancient Roman aqueduct bridge. Continue on to Avignon to enjoy views of the remaining arches of the Pont d'Avignon and the fortified Papal Palace.

Stop at the beautiful Domaine de la Vallongue for a tasting of its renowned wines and gastronomic olive oils. A MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> Experience, the estate uses traditional practices throughout, creating a sustainable business for future generations. (B)

#### DAY 10 CARCASSONNE AND TO ALBI

Head to beautiful Arles and learn about its historical connection to Vincent Van Gogh. Cross the fertile Languedoc region, to the fortified town of Carcassonne.

Travel to Albi and marvel at iconic sites during your orientation, including the views of the Toulouse Lautrec Museum and the cathedral. (B)

#### Hôtel Saint Antoine, Albi.





INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Take part in a lesson.of the French sport of pétanque. (Photo by @Insightfred, Day 9, Pont-Du-Gard)





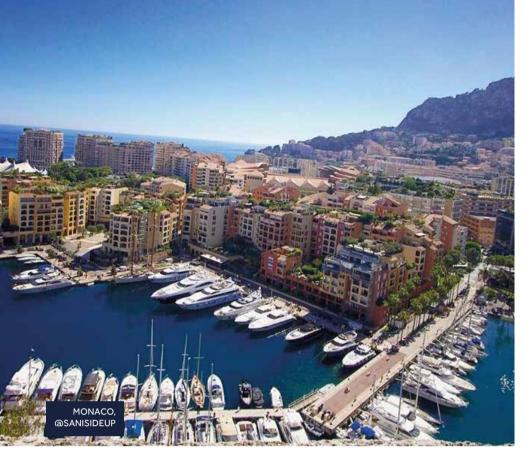




This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.







#### DAY 11 FREE TIME IN ALBI

Enjoy a full day at leisure, to relax and soak up the atmosphere of Albi.

This evening enjoy a delicious dinner of carefully selected fresh ingredients, at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 CAHORS AND ROCAMADOUR

**Relaxed Start.** Sample some local Dordogne specialities when you visit the market at Cahors, famous for its black wine.

Travel to Rocamadour and enjoy free time to explore this medieval town. (B) (DW)

Hotel Le Perigord, La Roque-Gageac.

## DAY 13 EXPLORING THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

Start the day with a morning drive into the stunning Valley of the Dordogne to visit Lascaux II, where the world-famous prehistoric cave paintings have been faithfully reproduced.

Enjoy a delicious Farm-to-Table Dinner, prepared with locally sourced ingredients and served with wines from the region. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 PARIS, THE CITY OF LIGHT

Travel onwards to immerse yourself in the beautiful city of Paris. (B)

Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

#### DAY 15 ROMANTIC CAPITAL ON THE SEINE

During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, the facades of the Louvre, the obelisk in Place de la Concorde and drive along the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose between shopping in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian

with your Local Expert or alternatively, join a Local Expert, an avid foodie, to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies.

Enjoy a highlight dinner at the historic restaurant, La Coupole. Delight in French cuisine and delicious wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 16 ROUEN, HONFLEUR AND DEAUVILLE

Follow the River Seine to Rouen, capital of Normandy, to admire its ancient cathedral - a masterpiece of Gothic style and the subject of a series of paintings by Claude Monet. Wander through the narrow streets beneath the Great Clock to the Old Market Square. Here, a superb modern church commemorates the burning of Joan of Arc on this very spot in 1431. Continue to the charming fishing town of Honfleur and to your luxurious hotel, located in the chic seaside resort of Deauville. (B)

#### Hotel Barrière L'Hôtel du Golf, Deauville.

## DAY 17 NORMANDY BEACHES AND D-DAY LANDINGS

Follow the route of the Rangers, visit the bunkers and the Rangers Memorial at Pointe du Hoc. With a Local Expert, spend a few reflective moments at the American Military Cemetrey of Saint-Laurent, near Omaha Beach. Explore Normandy with Insight Choice. Choose between visiting the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and see the remnants of the artificial port in the bay or alternatively, visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and learn about the epic story of William, Duke of Normandy becoming the King of England.

This evening, you are treated to a delightful dinner, which promises creative cuisine, seasonal ingredients and delicious wines. (B) (DW)

## DAY 18 MONT SAINT-MICHEL AND SAINT-MALO

Journey through Bocage country for an exploration of the hilltop abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel with your Local Expert. The abbey stands on an island and is reached by a causeway across the shining sands. Continue along the Emerald Coast to stunning Saint-Malo, situated on the Rance Estuary and one of the most charming places in France. A Local Expert will take you on an exploration of the City of the Corsairs. Walk through the maze of streets of Intra Muros, the walled city, to the cathedral, the burial place of Jacques Cartier and other celebrated voyagers. (B)

#### Hôtel Le Nouveau Monde, St Malo.

#### **DAY 19 VILLANDRY EXPERIENCE**

Head south to follow the valley of the Loire, passing the moated Angers Castle.

Cross the Loire to Saumur, where a local vintner will guide you through tastings of the region's delicious wines.

Head to Château de Villandry, the jewel of the Loire, to visit the glorious sustainable gardens on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Ensure you don't miss the water, ornamental and kitchen gardens. This stunning sea of fragrant green herbs, silvery cabbages, and purple basil grown organically to regenerate the local ecosystem. Continue to your château hotel, where you can relax like royalty in sumptuous surroundings. (B)

#### Château De Rochecotte, Saint Patrice, Loire Valley.

## DAY 20 SCENIC DRIVE ALONG THE LOIRE VALLEY

Journey to the fairy-tale Château d'Azayle-Rideau, considered one of the best representations of French Renaissance architecture. Having recently undergone extensive restoration, your Local Expert will show you the subtle blend of French tradition and innovative Italian decor within this 16th century icon of the Loire Valley.

Return to your own superb château for relaxation and free time.

At night, your Celebration Dinner starts with a glass of local sparkling wine and continues with excellent service and delicious Farm-to-Table dishes in the most wholesome setting, ensuring the memory of your meal will linger long after you've returned home. (B) (DW)

## DAY 21 LA BEAUCE AND CHARTRES TO PARIS, CITY OF LIGHT

Travelling through the vast wheat fields of the Beauce region, Chartres Cathedral, nicknamed the 'Acropolis of France' by August Rodin, looms large on the horizon. Enjoy a guided tour of this architectural delight.

From here, return to the French capital. After dark, the City of Light really lives up to its name, when the monuments, buildings and bridges are lit up in all their glory.

For that special touch of excitement and glamour, don't miss the chance to experience one of the world-famous cabaret shows. (B)

#### Pullman Paris Centre Bercy.

#### DAY 22 AU REVOIR PARIS

Your departure transfer will arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 or 11:00. (B)

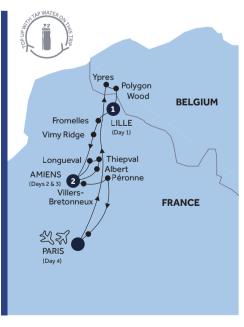
# WORLD WAR I BATTLEFIELDS

"This short and emotive journey is packed with history from World War I. We visit iconic battlefields, memorials and war cemetreies. En route we witness delightful countryside villages and medieval towns." – John, Travel Director



Meet your Travel Director at 09:00 at the Méridien Etoile hotel in Paris and head off toward Flanders Fields in Belgium. Visit kev locations in the Ypres Salient that witnessed several major battles during the Great War. Attend the Last Post Ceremony in the rebuilt town of Ypres. Leaving Lille, see the Australian Cemetrey in Fromelles. Explore Arras with Insight Choice, Choose to spend time at Vimy Ridge and walk among original trenches. Alternatively, learn about the efforts of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. before arriving in

Amiens. Join your Local Expert to discover various sites around the Somme Battlefields. Stop by the South African and New Zealand Memorials at Longueval. In Albert, take time to see the Golden Virgin statue on top of the reconstructed church before visiting Beaumont-Hamel. Visit the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux and the village of Le Hamel. Return to Paris, with a stop at Charles De Gaulle Airport or conclude your trip at the Le Méridien Etoile hotel



#### **TRIP START DATES**

| 2023                    | 2024                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| APR   23                | <b>APR  </b> 21         |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 21     | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 19     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 18     | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 16, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 16, 30 | <b>JUL  </b> 14,28      |
| <b>AUG  </b> 13, 27     | AUG   14, 25            |
| <b>SEP  </b> 10, 24     | <b>SEP  </b> 08, 22     |
| ост   08                | ост   08                |
|                         |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/battlefields

#### © REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

**4 DAYS** 2 COUNTRIES 4 MEALS

**10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES** 

feefoee 4.7

GUEST REVIEW

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Amiens:** Venture through the battlefields of the Somme, as your local historian explains how brave soldiers fought tirelessly for five months.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Arras:** Choose to visit the Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge and walk among the original trenches. Alternatively, visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Experience, to commemorate the 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties from the World Wars.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Franco-Australian Museum in Villers-Bretonneux.

See Lille • Australian cemetrey at Fromelles • Leaning Virgin and church of Albert • Ypres Battlefields • Beaumont-Hamel • Péronne.

**DAY 1** Mercure Lille Centre Grand Place Hotel.

DAY 2 - 3 Kyriad Prestige Amiens.



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website. FRANCE, BELGIUM & THE NETHERLANDS

## **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our quests and

By our guests and Travel Directors



GEBONY\_SKYEINSTAGRAM



AU KAH KAY TALLINN, ESTONIA



O @EBONY\_SKYE COPENHAGEN, DENMARK



O @DUNCAN\_NOEL BERLIN, GERMANY



AU KAH KAY TALLINN, ESTONIA



(a) TARRYNLIDDELL GODAFOSS WATERFALL, ICELAND





(a) MGDX\_GAL HELSINKI, FINLAND



# Northern Europe

Country Roads of Scandinavia 12 DAYS | PAGE 154

Spectacular Scandinavia & Its Fjords 15 DAYS | PAGE 156

Grand Scandinavia 20 DAYS | PAGE 158

Northern Lights of

Scandinavia

10 DAYS | PAGE 160

Natural Wonders of Iceland 9 DAYS | PAGE 162



Scenic Iceland & Northern Lights 7 DAYS | PAGE 164

Warsaw & the Baltic States 8 DAYS | PAGE 166

Northern Capitals

Scandinavian Heritage 28 DAYS | Available online

| 2023                        | 2024                        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 10, 24         | MAY   08, 22                |
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| <b>AUG  </b> 02, 09, 16, 30 | <b>AUG  </b> 07, 14, 28     |
| <b>SEP</b>   06             | <b>SEP</b>   04             |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/crscandinavia

Why not combine this trip with **Grand Scandinavia** to fully experience the region? See **Scandinavian Heritage** on our website.

#### © REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

12 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 16 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### feefoee 4.3

GUEST REVIEW

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Copenhagen:** For your Celebration Dinner enjoy a meal at Cofoco, a restaurant leading the way in minimizing food waste and acting for a sustainable future.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Lyngdal:** Tour the Wild Salmon Centre with a biologist guide, learn about protecting salmon populations and the local ecosystem.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Aarhus:** Choose to join a Local Expert and visit the Den Gamle By Open-Air Museum, offering a trip through 300 years of Danish culture. Alternatively, walk through the Botanical Gardens with your Local Expert and learn about Danish nature and flora.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Dinner with Wine at Zupperia Matbørsen in Bergen • Farm-to-Table Dinner in Aarhus.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

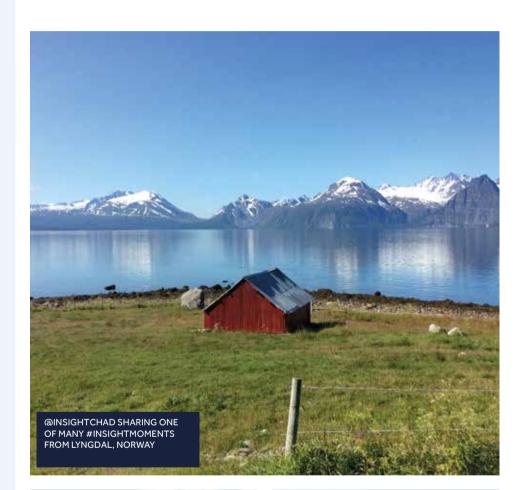
Travel the fjords from Bergen to Stavanger • Cruise Lysefjord • Cruise across the Skagerrak from Kristiansand to Hirsthals

Visit the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense.

City tours of Oslo, Bergen, Aarhus and Copenhagen, all with Local Experts.

# COUNTRY ROADS OF SCANDINAVIA

"One thing I really love about Norway is how people have lived and flourished for thousands of years in harsh, unforgiving yet stunningly beautiful landscapes." – **Chad, Travel Director** 





ARSVAGEN COASTLINE, NORWAY



ROSENBORG CASTLE, COPENHAGEN

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO OSLO

On arrival at Oslo airport, your transfer will leave for the hotel at 09:30, 12:00 or 14:30.

Join your Travel Director and fellow quests at 17:30, to enjoy a Welcome Dinner with wine. (DW)

Thon Hotel Europa, Oslo.

#### **DAY 2** COSMOPOLITAN OSLO

Relaxed Start. Sightseeing with a Local Expert includes views of Akershus Castle and the Royal Palace. Walk around the Opera House and marvel at the stricking contemporary architecture of the new Bjorvika district. Wander through Frogner Park, with its intriguing sculptures by Gustav Vigeland. The afternoon is at your leisure to continue exploring as you wish. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to the most modern ski jump in the world? (B)

#### DAY 3 OSLO CITY TO COASTAL BERGEN

Journey across the Hardanger Plateau, the largest national park in the Nordic countries, to arrive at the historic port of Bergen.

Join your Travel Director for a city orientation and hear about the seafaring traditions of this beautiful harbourside town.

This evening, savour a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz, Bergen.

#### **DAY 4** ANCIENT HANSEATIC PORT OF BERGEN

Relaxed Start. A Local Expert introduces you to Bergen with a visit to Bryggen, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Centre. Explore its beautiful wooden houses, see the 14th century Haakon's Hall and stroll through the lively fish market with its many stalls.

Enjoy free time to explore all that this exciting town has to offer. Perhaps spend a leisurely afternoon on the traditional train of the Flåm Railway? (B)

#### DAY 5 A COASTLINE LIKE NO OTHER

Relaxed Start. Travel along this incredible coastline and sail across fjords to reach Stavanger, founded almost 900 years ago. Now the headquarters of the Norwegian oil industry, Stavanger is a fusion of old world charm and cosmopolitan flair. (B)

#### Thon Hotel Maritim, Stavanger.

#### DAY 6 THE WONDERS OF LYSEFJORD

Relaxed Start. Cruise through Lysefjord, one of Norway's most breathtaking fjords and be charmed by its stunning natural beauty. See the Preikestolen plateau and Pulpit Rock, a plunging cliff face and one of the most iconic places in Norway. You will also see the mysterious Vagabond's Cave and enjoy the fjord landscape through panoramic windows or from the sundeck. The afternoon is at your leisure to relax or continue exploring Stavanger. (B)

#### **DAY 7** LYNGDAL AND KRISTIANSAND

In Lynadal, tour the Wild Salmon Centre with a biologist guide, learn about protecting salmon populations and the local ecosystem. Observe the majestic fish in their own environment, via a unique indoor 'staircase' and viewing area. Your scenic drive





Denmark's capital with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Aimzilla88, Day 11, Copenhagen)

around the southern cape of Norway brings you to Kristiansand.

An orientation walk will show you the Dom Kirke and Nupen Fountain.

Savour a delicious dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (D)

Thon Hotel Parken. Kristiansand.

#### **DAY 8** KRISTIANSAND TO AARHUS

Sail across the Skagerrak to Hirtshals, Denmark. Continue to Aarhus, one of Europe's cultural treasures with world-class museums and modern art

Explore Aarhus with Insight Choice. Choose to ioin a Local Expert to visit Den Gamle By Open-Air Museum, offering a trip through 300 years of Danish culture. Walk among historic houses relocated from all over the country and see traditional workshops. Alternatively, take a walk in the Botanical Gardens with your Local Expert. Learn about Danish nature and flora, as well as international plants in the Tropical Houses.

#### Join your fellow travellers for a Farm-to-Table dinner of delicious regional specialties made from locally sourced and seasonal ingredients. (B) (D)

#### Comwell Hotel, Aarhus.

#### **DAY 9** HISTORIC AARHUS

Relaxed Start. Join your Local Expert for an exploration of the city centre. See the City Hall, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum — topped with an immense and interactive artwork — and Dokk1, the largest public library in Scandinavia. Walk through the cathedral neighbourhood and visit the new township for splendid views of Aarhus Bay. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. (B)

#### DAY 10 ODENSE AND THE FAIRYTALES OF FYN

Relaxed Start. Cross the Jutland Peninsula to the town of Odense, on the island of Fyn. Visit the Hans Christian Andersen House and explore the author's creative universe. The newly opened, innovative exhibition is a remarkable homage to one of the most famous Danes. In the evening, visit the glittering lights and enchanting atmosphere of the world-famous Tivoli Gardens.(B)

Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen.

#### **DAY 11** WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

Relaxed Start. Meet your Local Expert and pay a visit to Hans Christian Andersen's iconic Little Mermaid statue. Later, see Christiansborg Palace, Rosenborg Castle, Amalienborg Palace, the Renaissance Stock Exchange, Copenhagen Cathedral and the unusual Round Tower. The afternoon is at your leisure.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the Cofoco restaurant and enjoy a delicious Celebration Dinner of sustainable ingredients, as you toast to the end of your Scandinavian adventure. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 12** DEPART COPENHAGEN

Departure transfers arrive at Copenhagen airport at 06:30, 09:00 and 12:00. (B)



## **KEY**

∛ Join/Leave Options 1 Central

- Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited 🛱 Cruise

#### **CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE**

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



| 2023   | 2024   |
|--|--|
| <b>APR 3</b> 0   | <b>APR</b> 28  |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28                            | MAY 05, 12, 19, 26                                     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 09, 11, 18, 23, 25                    | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 07, 09, 16, 21, 23, 30                |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 07, 09, 16, 21, 23, 30                | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 07, 14, 19, 21, 28                    |
| <b>AUG</b>   04, 06, 13, 18, 20, 27<br><b>SEP</b>   03 | <b>AUG</b>   02, 04, 11, 16, 18, 25<br><b>SEP</b>   01 |
| <b>3EF</b>   03  | JEFIOI   |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit **insightvacations.com/fjords** 

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED ACTIVITY A

**15 DAYS** 3 COUNTRIES 21 MEALS 22 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoe 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Gothenburg:** Enjoy traditional Swedish fika, coffee and cinnamon roll, at a community café.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Uppsala:** Meet Hans Odoo, a passionate Uppsala local and storyteller, who will share the fascinating history of the Carl Linneaus Garden on a guided tour.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Fjaerland: Choose to visit the Norwegian Glacier Museum, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, to hear more about climate change and how your visit supports their research. Alternatively, take a walk through the village of Fjærland with a Local Expert and learn about life between the fjord and the glacier.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Copenhagen • Celebration Dinner in Oslo.Taste apple cider in Hardangerfjord.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Cruise Geirangerfjord • Travel on the Flåm Railway.

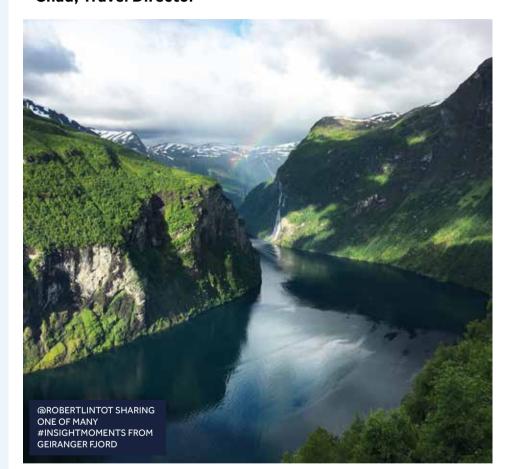
Visit Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen • Stockholm's City Hall • Lom Stave Church.

City tours of Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Bergen and Oslo, all with Local Experts.

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# SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA & ITS FJORDS

"Guests love meeting with Heidi at her orchard, which overlooks the stunning Hardangerfjord. She passionately tells us entertaining and personal stories about her life on the farm." – Chad, Travel Director





FLÅM RAILWAY



@INSIGHTLAURA, BERGEN

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO COPENHAGEN

On arrival at Copenhagen airport, your transfer will leave for your hotel at 09:00, 12:00 or 15:00.

At 17:30, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for your Welcome Dinner.

In the evening, visit the world-famous Tivoli Gardens. (DW)

Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen.

#### DAY 2 WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

A Local Expert will reveal the charm of Denmark's capital. Meet Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid and see Christiansborg Palace, Rosenborg Castle, Amalienborg Palace, the Renaissance Stock Exchange and Copenhagen Cathedral. View the unusual Rundertaarn and enjoy an afternoon at your leisure, relaxing or exploring at your pace. (B)

#### DAY 3 ON TO GOTHENBURG

**Relaxed Start.** Continue along Sweden's west coast to the cosmopolitan port city of Gothenburg. On arrival, explore with your Local Expert and learn about the region's culture and nautical history. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> Experience to enjoy traditional Swedish fike - a coffee and cinnamon bun - at a local community cafe. (B)

Elite Plaza Hotel Gothenburg.

#### DAY 4 SCENIC FARMLANDS OF SWEDEN

Enjoy views of the patchwork of fertile farmlands, as you journey along the shores of Lake Vättern to the Swedish capital. (B)

#### Hilton Stockholm Slussen.

12 travellers.

#### DAY 5 STOCKHOLM, CITY OF ISLANDS

See the charms of this fabulous city with your Local Expert. Wander the medieval streets of Gamla Stan and see the 13th-century cathedral. Stroll through the courtyard of the Royal Palace and visit the imposing City Hall to see its gilded Golden Hall and the Blue Hall, where the annual Nobel Prize banquet is held. (B)

#### DAY 6 SIGTUNA, UPPSALA AND FALUN

Travel to Sigtuna on Lake Mälaren, to see Sweden's smallest City Hall.

Continue to the historic city of Uppsala and visit the Carl Linneaus Garden with Hans Odoo, a passionate local storyteller.

See the Falun Copper Mine and the Great Pit, a vast crater created by an enormous mine collapse in 1687. In the evening, enjoy a delightful dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (D)

#### First Grand Hotel Falun.

#### **DAY 7** LILLEHAMMER

Travel along Lake Siljan to Mora, home to the infamous 17th-century witch trials. Continue to Salen, the starting point for the race, before crossing into Norway.

Journey along Mjøsa, Norway's largest lake, to arrive at Lillehammer. (B)

#### Scandic Victoria Lillehammer.

#### DAY 8 GEIRANGER, JEWEL OF THE FJORDS

**Relaxed Start.** Travel through the countryside of Peer Gynt, to reach Lom where you visit the Norwegian stave church dating back to 1158. For the next two nights you will stay in the scenic village of Geiranger. (B) (D)

#### Hotel Union Geiranger.

#### **DAY 9** GEIRANGER AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a relaxed start and a day reserved for your leisure amongst breathtaking scenery. (B) (D)

#### DAY 10 FJÆRLAND AND FJORDLAND

**Relaxed Start.** Take a scenic morning cruise along the Geirangerfjord.

Explore Fjærland with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the interactive Norwegian Glacier Museum at the foot of the Jostedal Glacier, the largest icecap in continental Europe. Alternatively, take a walk through the village of Fjærland with a Local Expert and hear about life between the fjord and the glacier.

Your journey continues with a scenic drive onto your historic fjord hotel in Leikanger.

Delight in a dinner of fresh and locally sourced produce. (B) (D)

Leikanger Fjord Hotel.

#### DAY 11 THE FLÅM RAILWAY TO BERGEN

Cross the magnificent Sognefjord and embark on a spectacularly scenic journey aboard the Flåm Railway.

Visit a family-run farm on the Hardangerfjord to hear how eight generations have farmed the land. Sample their fresh apple juice and homemade cider and enjoy a walk through the orchard. Travel on to your hotel in the historic port of Bergen. (B) (D)

#### Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz, Bergen.

#### DAY 12 THE HANSEATIC PORT OF BERGEN

**Relaxed Start.** A Local Expert introduces you to Bergen. See the lively Fish Market with its many stalls that also include fruits, vegetables, flowers, handicrafts and souvenirs, before continuing on to see the 13th century Haakon's Hall. (B)

#### DAY 13 MOUNTAINS AND FJORDS TO OSLO

Travel along scenic and varied landscapes to Oslo, through some of Norway's most picturesque ski-resorts. Cross the Hardanger Plateau, Europe's greatest mountain plateau and the largest national park in the Nordic countries. (B)

#### Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Oslo.

#### DAY 14 COSMOPOLITAN OSLO

**Relaxed Start.** With your Local Expert, see the Royal Palace and the Akershus Castle guarding the harbour. Explore the area around the Opera House and see the strikingly modern architecture of the Bjorvika neighborhood.

Round off your Scandinavian adventure with a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant. Over a glass of wine, toast to your travels with your newfound friends. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 15 OUT OF OSLO

Departure transfers arrive at Oslo airport at 07:15 and 10:15. (B)  $\,$ 

**KEY** ∛ Join/Leave Options ß 2 Geirangerfjord Cruise ₩UNESCO Peer Gynt Country FJORDLAND Heritage Site Fiærland Ē. 1 Salen Central Flåm Railway LILLEHAMMER Voss Hotels + Nights 2 Steinstø BERGEN FALUN Hotels + Nights (Days 11 & 12) Uppsala ₹N 2 NORWAY Place Visited osio Sigtuna 🥉 STOCKHOLM 2 🗄 Train SWEDEN 🛱 Cruise GOTHENBURG Lake Vattern 1 **CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE** This trip operates both classic and small DENMARK group departures. You can also book 2 COPENHAGEN your own private group with as few as (Days 1 & 2)



| <b>2023</b><br><b>APR  </b> 16, 21, 23, 28,<br>30 | <b>2024</b><br><b>APR  </b> 14, 19, 21, 26,<br>28 |
|---|---|
| <b>MAY  </b> 05, 07, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28       | <b>MAY  </b> 03, 05, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31   |
| <b>JUN  </b> 02, 04, 09, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30   | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 07, 09, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30   |
| <b>JUL  </b> 02, 07, 09, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30   | <b>JUL  </b> 05, 07, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28       |
| <b>AUG  </b> 04, 06, 11, 13, 18, 20               | <b>AUG  </b> 02, 04, 09, 11, 16, 18               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/grandscand

Why not combine this trip with **Country Roads of Scandinavia** to fully experience the region? See **Scandinavian Heritage** on our website.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

#### 20 DAYS

4 COUNTRIES 30 MEALS 27 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Karasjok:** Visit the Sami Museum, dedicated to preserving the culture of one of the world's oldest tribes. Admire over 5,000 objects in the cultural heritage collection on a visit that actively supports the community's efforts to conserve their heritage for future generations.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Alta:** Meet the Lyrek family and their huskies. Hear tales about their marathon Arctic dog sled races during a hearty lunch.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Rovaniemi:** Choose to spend time at Santa Claus Village and embrace the spirit of Christmas. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a nature walk in the forest.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel the Baltic Sea by cruise from Stockholm to Helsinki • Cruise Geirangerfjord.

Visit Copenhagen Cathedral • City Hall Stockholm • Helsinki • Rovaniemi • North Cape.

# GRAND SCANDINAVIA

"Our guests love to meet and hear stories from Trine and Hanna, a mother/daughter team of dog sled champions who have both competed in the Iditarod and Finnmarkslopet races. Constantly positive and passionate, they overflow with love for their huskies." – Danny, Travel Director





LAKSFORSEN WATERFALL, NORWAY



STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO

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#### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO COPENHAGEN

On arrival at Copenhagen airport, your transfer shuttle service will leave for your hotel at 09:00, 12.00 and 15.00

#### Join your Travel Director at 17:30. for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner.

Visit the world-famous Tivoli Gardens. (DW)

Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen.

#### **DAY 2** WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

Meet your Local Expert and pay a visit to Hans Christian Andersen's iconic Little Mermaid statue. Later, see Christiansborg Palace, Rosenborg Castle, Amalienborg Palace and the Renaissance Stock Exchange. Visit the cathedral. (B)

#### DAY 3 ON TO STOCKHOLM, CITY OF ISLANDS

Travel from Denmark to Sweden, crossing the incredible Øresund Bridge. Journey along the shores of Lake Vättern to Stockholm. (B)

#### Hilton Stockholm Slussen.

#### DAY 4 STOCKHOLM AND BALTIC SEA CRUISE

Join a Local Expert and visit City Hall. Continue to Gamla Stan to view the cathedral and the Royal Palace

Board your Baltic cruise to Finland and enjoy dinner onboard from your sea-view cabin. (B) (DW)

#### Serenade/Symphony—Tallink & Silja Line Ships.

#### **DAY 5** FASHIONABLE HELSINKI

Relaxed Start. Disembark your Baltic cruise and meet your Local Expert.

Wander through the aromatic stalls of a traditional food market and sample local produce, like liquorice or smoked reindeer. (B)

#### GLO Hotel Art, Helsinki.

#### DAY 6 LAKES AND FORESTS TO KUOPIO

On arrival in Kuopio, ascend Puijo Tower for stunning views. (B) (D)

#### Scandic Atlas, Kuopio.

#### DAY 7 THE ROAD TO ROVANIEMI

Visit Oulu, northern Finland's oldest city. Travel to Lapland, (B) (D)

#### Santa's Hotel Santa Claus, Rovaniemi.

#### **DAY 8** ROVANIEMI AND LAPLAND

Relaxed Start. Cross the Arctic Circle today, a highlight for many travellers. With your Local Expert, see the Town Hall and visit Rovaniemi Church

Explore Rovaniemi with Insight Choice. Choose to meet Santa Claus and embrace the spirit of Christmas. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a nature walk in the forest. (B)

#### DAY 9 ACROSS THE ARCTIC TO IVALO

Relaxed Start. Continue along the Four Winds Road, where you may see herds of reindeer as you journey to one of the oldest churches in Lapland. Travel through Europe's last great wilderness to see the Urho Kekkonen National Park. (B) (D)

#### Hotel Ivalo.

#### DAY 10 THE NORTH CAPE

Cross the rolling tundra into Norway and stop at Karasiok for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Visit a Sami National Museum, devoted to preserving the Sami history and culture, and see the Sami Parliament. Continue through unique scenery en route to

North Cape

Journey to the northernmost point of mainland Europe in search of the midnight sun and enjoy a glass of bubbles and caviar in one of the most special places on Earth. (B) (D)

#### Scandic Honningsvåg.

#### DAY 11 THROUGH FINNMARK TO ALTA

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a morning at leisure before continuing onwards to Alta. (B)

Scandic Alta.

#### DAY 12 A WORLD OF ADVENTURE IN ALTA

Relaxed Start. Visit a working husky farm to meet the champion dog sledding Lyrek family. Learn about their Alaskan huskies and Arctic dog sled races. Meet husky puppies that may grow to be the best racing dogs in the country.

Afterwards, delight in a wonderful oven-baked Highlight Lunch with seasonal specialties from the region, such as salmon or reindeer. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 13 NARVIK

Pass Kåfjord where the German battleship Tirpitz was stationed during World War II, before arriving into scenic Narvik. (B)

#### Scandic Narvik.

#### DAY 14 ACROSS TYSEJORD TO MOSJØEN

Board a ferry to cross Tysfjord, then continue past Rago National Park and bid farewell to the Arctic. (B)(D)

#### Fru Haugans Hotel, Mosjoen.

#### **DAY 15** LAKSFOSS FALLS TO TRONDHEIM

Continue past the village of Hell to Trondheim. See the impressive Nidaros Cathedral, the world's northernmost medieval cathedral. (B)

#### Scandic Bakklandet. Trondheim.

#### DAY 16 GEIRANGER, JEWEL OF THE FJORDS

Travel past lakes and snowcapped peaks to Lom. Arrive at Geirangerfjord to embark on a spectacular cruise beneath towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. (B) (D)

#### Hotel Union Geiranger.

#### DAY 17 GEIRANGER AT LEISURE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a whole day free for you to explore the fiords and mountains. (B) (D)

#### DAY 18 OSLO. THE CAPITAL

Travel through 'Peer Gynt' Country, inspiration for Edvard Grieg.

Stop in Lillehammer and continue on to Oslo.

Round off your travels with a Celebration Dinner, and raise your glass to toast your adventures. (B) (DW)

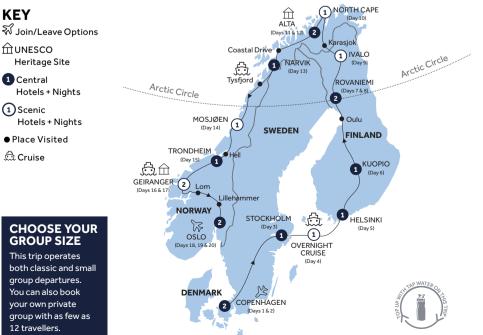
#### Thon Hotel Opera, Oslo.

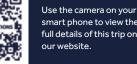
#### **DAY 19** COSMOPOLITAN OSLO

Relaxed Start. Your Local Expert will show you the medieval Akershus Castle and the Royal Palace. Wander through Frogner Park with its intriguing sculptures by Gustav Vigeland and see the area around the Opera House. (B)

#### DAY 20 OUT OF OSLO

Departure transfers arrive at Oslo airport at 07:15 and 10:15. (B)





smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

| 2023                    | 2024                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>OCT  </b> 11, 25     | <b>JAN  </b> 03, 17, 31 |
| NOV 08, 22              | FEB   14, 28            |
| <b>DEC</b>   06, 10, 13 | MAR   13, 27            |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/northernlights

# A COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

10 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 15 MEALS 7 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e</sup> 4.4<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW \*\*\*\*

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Tromso:** Delve into the fascinating history of Scandinavia in Tromsø. A Sami family welcomes you into their reindeer camp to share their traditions, culture and history, and to enjoy an evening of dinner and games.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Alta:** Meet the Lyrek family and their huskies. Hear tales about their marathon Arctic dog sled races during a hearty lunch.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Drink in Helsinki • Welcome Dinner at the Aurora Village hotel • Drinks at an Ice Bar in Alta • Highlight Dinner in Alta • Celebration Dinner in Oslo.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit North Cape and search for the Northern Lights.

See the Opera House and the new Deichmann Library in Oslo.

#### SCENIC DRIVES

Enjoy the scenery as you travel through Scandinavia. Catch glimpses of shimmering winter wonderland forests and snow covered mountains, as you cross the border between Finland and Norway, chasing the northern lights. Watch dramatic coastlines rise from the seas by Alta, tracing your way past the Lyngen Alps down the coast to Tromsø.

# NORTHERN LIGHTS OF SCANDINAVIA

"Come to experience true Arctic wilderness, in this remote and little-known northern region. This is an amazing journey into one of the most rugged and most sparsely populated parts of the world." – Lene, Travel Director





O @\_ZSOFI\_, TROMSØ



DOG SLEDDING (OPTIONAL), ALTA

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO HELSINKI.

Welcome to Helsinki, with its excellent museums and pretty seaside buildings. This beautiful city is set to be your home for the night. At Helsinki airport, transfers depart at 10:00, 14:00 and 16:00 for the grand GLO Hotel Art. Meet your Travel Director at 18:00 for a drinks reception. Decorated in a distinctive Art Nouveau style, this charming four-star hotel is the ideal place to sit back and get to know your fellow travellers, before your Scandinavian adventure begins.

#### GLO Hotel Art, Helsinki.

#### DAY 2 THE GATEWAY TO LAPLAND

Today you'll take a flight to Ivalo, a small yet important centre in Finnish Lapland, 250km above the Arctic Circle. The Gateway to the North. Ivalo is set on the Ivalo River, where the first Lapland Goldrush took place in the 19th century.

#### You'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your boutique hotel, Aurora Village.

Look out for the dancing northern lights, as you gaze through the glass ceiling from the comfort of your room. Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore sightings cannot be guaranteed. (B) (DW)

#### Aurora Village, Ivalo,

#### DAY 3 IVALO TO HONNINGSVÅG

Today you'll be heading further North through the winter Lapland landscape. Cross the Finnish-Norwegian border as you make your way to Honningsvåg, the northernmost and smallest city in Norway. Your drive will take you along the mighty Porsangerfjord, the fourth largest fjord in Norway. Take the subsea Nordkapp Tunnel to the island of Magerøya, to reach your hotel in this small fishing community. Explore the quaint city by taking a stroll along the waterfront before dinner at your hotel. (B) (D)

#### Scandic Bryggen, Honnninsvag.

#### **DAY 4** NORTHERN LIGHTS IN NORTH CAPE

Relaxed Start. You simply can't visit Norway without heading to North Cape (weather permitting). Dubbed the northernmost point in continental Europe, vou'll go in search of the iconic Northern Lights as you sip on bubbles and delight in exquisite caviar with your fellow travellers. End your day back at your charming hotel, where you'll rest up ahead of tomorrow's adventures. (B) (D)

#### DAY 5 NORTH CAPE TO ALTA

Enjoy a spectacular drive from North Cape to Alta, taking in the country's magnificent fiords and Artic landscapes along the way.

Head to an ice bar with your fellow travellers, for a chilled beverage as you discuss the day's events. Home for the next couple of nights is Scandic Alta, a traditional and relaxing hotel, situated in the heart of Alta. With time at leisure, perhaps visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Rock Art Museum? (B)

#### Scandic Alta.

#### DAY 6 ALASKAN HUSKIES IN ALTA

Relaxed Start. This is a day for dog lovers and a true highlight of the trip. Visit a working husky farm and get to know the Lyrek family and champion sled dogs. Learn about their Alaskan huskies and the challenges they face competing in the marathon long Arctic dog sled races. Indulge in a delectable oven-baked Highlight Lunch, before meeting the dogs themselves. (B) (LW)

#### DAY 7 NORWAY'S GATEWAY TO THE ARTIC

Today you'll head to Tromsø, northern Norway's largest city, located on the island of Tromsøya. You'll be surrounded by snowcapped mountains and ethereal water views. Just a short walk from your hotel, you'll find a high concentration of old wooden houses and a great array of restaurants. (B)

#### Clarion Hotel The Edge, Tromsø.

#### DAY 8 DELVE INTO SCANDINAVIAN HISTORY

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you meet members of the indigenous Sami community of Scandinavia. Delve into the history of Arctic Norway and join a Sami guide for an immersive journey through their camp, with an invitation to help feed their reindeer herd.

You are invited into a lavuu (a traditional Sami tent) to hear stories of Sami life and folk songs around the fire, after enjoying a traditional Sami meal with hot drinks. (B) (D)

#### DAY 9 A MERRY FINALE IN OSLO

In the morning, take a flight from Tromsø to Oslo, a modern city located on the shores of the Oslofjord. Surrounded by forested mountains, city dwellers and visitors alike have easy access to nature all year round. On your orientation, see the Oslo Opera House and the new Deichmann Library in the contemporary Bjørvika district.

#### Join your fellow travellers at a local restaurant to make a toast to newfound friends and a wonderful journey, over a Celebration Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

Thon Hotel Europa, Oslo.

#### **DAY 10** FAREWELL OSLO

It's time to say farewell to your fellow travellers. Transfers arrive into Oslo airport at 07:15 or 10:15. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Witness the wonder of the Aurora Borealis. (Photo by Yeo Yong Meng, Day 2, Ivalo)

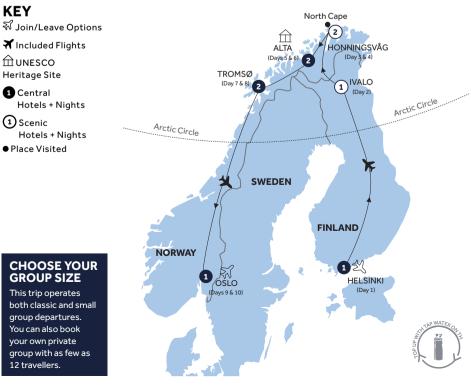




TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Discover beautiful scenery in Tromsø with your Travel Director. (Photo by Yeo Yong Meng, Day 7, Tromsø)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



a

(1)

| 2023                          | 2024                         |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26  |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25   | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 09, 16, 23, |
| <b>JUL</b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30 | 30                           |
| AUG 06, 13, 20, 27            | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28  |
| <b>SEP</b>  03                | AUG 04, 11, 18, 25           |
|                               | <b>SEP</b>  01               |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/nwiceland

Looking to experience the Northern Lights? See **Scenic Iceland and the Northern Lights on page 164 for details**.

∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

9 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 14 MEALS 18 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Hellisheidavirkjun:** Visit Iceland's newest geothermal heat and electric power station, the second largest of its kind in the world.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Lake Myvatn: Taste local rúgbrauð, a sweet and dense rye bread which is buried underground and baked by the heat from nearby hot springs.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Reykjavik:** Choose to visit Iceland's worldfamous Blue Lagoon. Alternatively, discover Reykjavik's top sights on a walking tour with your Local Expert.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Reception in Reykjavík • Dinner in Höfn • Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in Reykjavík.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Geysir • Vatnajökull National Park • Snæfellsjökull National Park.

See Gullfoss waterfall • Skalholt's historic church • Vatnajökull Glacier in Skaftafell • Lake Jökulsárlón • lakeside Egilsstaðir • craters, boiling mud pots and geothermal hot springs at Lake Mývatn • Akureyri • the black lava fields and yellow beach of Búðir • Arnarstapi • Parliamentary Plains in Thingvellir • Reykjavík.

# NATURAL WONDERS OF ICELAND

"A trip for a true adventurer, join me to discover the most breathtaking natural wonders. Every coast of Iceland is completely different in a magical way." **– Lana, Travel Director** 





 (@TARRYNLIDDELL, JOKULSARLON GLACIER LAGOON



@LANA\_INSIGHTVACATIONS, ICELAND

#### **DAY 1** THE SMOKY BAY OF REYKJAVÍK

Welcome to Iceland. On arrival at Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel.

Join your Travel Director and travel companions at 18:15 for a Welcome Drink served with canapés.

#### Fosshotel Reykjavík.

#### DAY 2 HOT SPRINGS, WATERFALLS AND VÍK Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Experience, heading east to visit Iceland's newest geothermal and electric power station at Hellisheiðavirkjun. Later, travel on to the ancient bishopric of Skalholt and see the historic church, set in a remote location amid magnificent natural scenery. Continue to the hot springs at Geysir and the mighty Gullfoss waterfalls, the Icelandic equivalent of Niagara Falls.

In the afternoon, visit the majestic south coast waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss before continuing to your hotel in Vik. (B) (D)

#### Hótel Kría, Vik.

#### DAY 3 BY GLACIERS AND ICEBERGS TO HÖFN

Travel along the southern coast of Iceland, beside the black sand beaches and basalt rock formations. Continue through the National Park at Skaftafell and see the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull. Travel on to the luminous blue icebergs of Lake Jökulsárlón, the highlight of the day. This dramatic setting was featured in two James Bond films. Arrive in the small harbour town of Höfn, an active lobster fishing hub. From here, your Travel Director will lead a short orientation.

#### Dine at your hotel's restaurant tonight and

experience what the local produce has to offer. (B) (D) Hótel Höfn.

#### **DAY 4** EASTERN FJORDS TO EGILSSTAÐIR

Relaxed Start. Explore yet another face of Iceland, as you drive through narrow fjords surrounded by steep cliffs and past small fishing villages. Catch a glimpse of Papey Island, once the home of Gaelic monks who settled here before the arrival of the Vikings. Continue to the lakeside town of Egilsstaðir. (B) (D)

#### Icelandair Hotel Herad, Egilsstadir.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site 1 Central

(1) Scenic

Place Visited

12 travellers.

∛ Join/Leave Options

#### DAY 5 BY DESERT, LAKES AND DIVINE WATERFALLS TO AKUREYRI

Continue on to the beautiful Lake Mývatn and explore the mysterious natural landscape of Iceland, with lava mazes, pseudo-craters, sulphur fields and other phenomena unique to the country.

#### This afternoon eniov a taste of the local rúabrauð. a sweet and dense rye bread which is buried underground and baked by the heat from nearby hot springs.

After an introduction to how they use the Dimmuborgir lava fields for the cooking process. enjoy a sample of the delicious bread served with butter

The last stop is by the waterfall Goðafoss, also known as the waterfall of the gods.

Perhaps embark on an optional whale watching experience? (available during whale season) (B)

#### Hotel Kea, Akureyri.

#### DAY 6 FROM THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTH TO BORGARNES

Relaxed Start. Enjoy an orientation of Akureyri, the capital of northern Iceland, first established as a trading centre in 1602.

Travel past mountains, waterfalls and green coastal regions. Later, continue on to the southwest coast of Borgarnes. (B) (D)

#### Icelandair Hotel Hamar, Borganes.

#### DAY 7 EXPLORING SNÆFELLSJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Travel along the Snæfellsnes Peninsula to Snæfellsjökull National Park, known as the Jewel of West Iceland and home to the country's most famous volcano. See the magnificent Snæfellsjökull glacier surrounded by unspoiled natural beauty. En route, admire the impressive landscapes of Búðir, offering a mixture of sandy hills, black lava fields and a yellow beach. Next, take a stroll along the sea cliffs of Arnastapi with its unique column rock formations and take in the beautiful scenery. (B) (D)

#### DAY 8 THINGVELLIR. BLUE LAGOON AND **ON TO REYKJAVÍK**

Journey south to Thingvellir. This remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site lies on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.

Explore Reykjavik with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon. Alternatively, discover Reykjavik's top sights on a walking tour with your Local Expert and stop along the way to sample local specialties.

This evening, delight in a delicious Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant where you round off your journey through one of the world's most naturally beautiful places. (B) (DW)

#### Fosshotel Reykjavík.

#### **DAY 9** FAREWELL REYKJAVÍK

Your Icelandic adventure comes to an end, with a transfer to Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See the jewel of West Iceland in Snaefellsnes National Park. (Photo by @\_zsofi\_, Day 7, Buðir)





SCENIC DRIVE Keep an eye out for Icelandic horses as you travel along the southwest coast. (Photo by @tarrynliddell, Dav 6. Borgarnes.)

Aöðrudalu Goð Hotels + Nights (1)AKUREYRI EGILSSTA M 1 Hvammstangi (Day 4) Hotels + Nights ICELAND BORGARNES Snæfellsjökull National Park 2 (Days 6 & 7) 1 and Gullfoss Thingvellir HÖFN CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE 11 Skaftafell Lake Skalholt Jökulsárlón REYKJAVÍK Н ellisheiðarvirkjur This trip operates (Days 1, 8 & 9) (1 both classic and small VÍK group departures. (Day 2) You can also book your own private group with as few as



| 2023                      | 2024                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>OCT</b>   01, 08, 15,  | <b>JAN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| 22,29                     | FEB 04, 11, 18, 25          |
| <b>NOV</b> 05, 12, 19, 26 | <b>MAR</b> 03, 10, 17, 24   |
| DEC   10, 24              | ••••, •, ,                  |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/sceniciceland

#### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

7 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 11 MEALS 14 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Hellisheidavirkjun: Visit Iceland's newest geothermal heat and electric power station, the second largest of its kind in the world. Hear about how this plant has helped Iceland achieve 70% of the country's energy consumption through renewable energy sources.

Visit a geothermal bakery in Fontana.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Borgarnes:** Learn about Iceland's history with a visit to the fascinating Icelandic Settlement Centre with your Local Expert.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Reykjavik:** Choose to experience the magic of Iceland on an exhilarating flight-ride experience at FlyOver. Alternatively, relax in the Blue Lagoon.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Reception in Reykjavik • Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in Reykjavik.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Seek out the northern lights in the skies above.

Visit the Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur • Geysir • Icelandic Settlement Centre in Borgarnes.

City tour of Reykjavik with a Local Expert.

See Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls • Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull volcanoes • Gullfoss waterfall • Hraunfossar waterfall • Reykholt • Parliamentary Plains in Thingvellir.

# SCENIC ICELAND & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

"In winter, Iceland only has a few hours of daylight, so we make sure to fill this time visiting the amazing waterfalls, glaciers, tectonic plates and one of the oldest parliament locations in the world." – Tarryn, Travel Director





GEYSIR



GULFOSS

#### DAY 1 THE VIKING CITY OF REYKJAVÍK

Welcome to Iceland. At Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel.

Join your Travel Director and travelling companions at 18:15 for your Welcome Reception and enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other, over a pleasant evening of wine and canapés.

Afterwards, search for the most spectacular show on Earth—the northern lights. See the breathtaking night sky filled with the aurora borealis and its vast spectrum of colour. Please note the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore sightings cannot be guaranteed. (DW)

Fosshotel Reykjavík.

#### DAY 2 SOUTH SHORE ADVENTURE TO VÍK

Relaxed Start. Take a journey through the stunning landscape of Iceland's south coast and through the land of Njál's Saga-a region of breathtaking scenery and legendary stories. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, heading east to visit Iceland's newest geothermal and electric power station at Hellisheiðavirkjun. Your journey continues, as you witness the majesty of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss. Stand awestruck by the beauty of these thundering waterfalls, before venturing on to view more spectacular phenomena. See the magnificent Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull volcanoes and visit the Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur, dedicated to Iceland's history of volcanic activity and earthquakes. Arrive in the welcoming community of Vik. Later, perhaps enjoy another chance to go in search of the mystical northern lights? (B) (D)

#### Hótel Kría, Vik.

**KEY** 

(1)

#### DAY 3 THE GOLDEN CIRCLE TO FLÚÐIR

Embark on a day of discovery around Iceland's Golden Circle, taking in some of the famous landmarks this magical country has to offer. Experience the exploding hot springs at Geysir before continuing on to the mighty Gullfoss waterfalls, the Icelandic equivalent of Niagara Falls.

In Friðheimar, learn about Icelandic greenhouse horticulture when you visit a family-run vegetable farm, specialising in tomatoes. Explore their greenhouses and sample the sweet, unique flavour of their lovingly grown crop.

Continue on to your hotel in Flúðir for another chance to catch nature's theater unfolding in the night sky. (B) (D)

Flúðir Icelandair Hotel.

#### **DAY 4** THINGVELLIR, BORGARNES AND HÚSAFELL

**Relaxed Start.** Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in Fontana on a visit to a geothermal bakery. Here, sample delicious rye bread, dug out from the steaming hot ground and served with butter. Continue to Thingvellir. This remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site lies on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge line, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. Journey along the trail of Viking warrior and poet Egill Skallagrímsson and stop at Reykholt for an orientation with vour Travel Director. In Borgarnes, visit the fascinating Icelandic Settlement Centre. Enjoy views of the Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls as you drive through glorious landscapes. Your travels continue to Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. (B) (D)

#### Hotel Húsafell.

#### **DAY 5** REYKJAVÍK SIGHTSEEING

Relaxed Start. Journey back to the Icelandic capital, where a Local Expert will show you Old Reykjavík, the 19th century parliament building and Höfði House. In 1986, US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev met here for the famous Reykjavík Summit. Later, visit the colourful harbour and the Hallgrímskirkja, a modern church and landmark that can be seen from almost anywhere in the city. The afternoon is at leisure. (B)

#### Fosshotel Reykjavík.

#### DAY 6 CHOICE IN REYKJAVIK

Relaxed Start. Choose to experience the magic of Iceland on an exhilarating flight-ride at FlyOver to see incredible scenery from sweeping alaciers to stunning fiords. Alternatively, relax in the Blue Lagoon. Surrounded by lava fields and snowcapped mountains, the lagoon is a wonder of nature and offers a unique experience for both body and soul. With your newfound friends, toast to the culmination of your fascinating journey of discovery during a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 7** FAREWELL REYKJAVÍK

Your Icelandic adventure comes to an end, with a transfer to Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Witness the majesty of Seljalandsfoss waterfall. (Photo @tarrynliddell, Day 2, Seljalandsfoss)

O



**INSIGHT CHOICE** Spend time relaxing in the Blue Lagoon. (Photo by (a)Dani.green21, Day 6, Reykjavik)





Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

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| 2023                         | 2024                        |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR</b>   02, 09, 16, 23, | MAR   31                    |
| 30                           | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28  | MAY 05, 12, 19, 26          |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25  | <b>JUN</b> 02,09,16,23,     |
| <b>JUL</b> 02, 09, 16, 23,   | 30                          |
| 30                           | <b>JUL</b> 07, 14, 21, 28   |
| <b>AUG</b> 06, 13, 20, 27    | AUG   04, 11, 18, 25        |
| <b>SEP</b>  03, 10, 17       | SEP   01, 08, 15            |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/warsaw

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

8 DAYS 4 COUNTRIES 10 MEALS 10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Warsaw:** Visit the University Botanic Gardens with a biologist. The garden's main function is the protection of biological diversity and the conservation of endangered Polish wild species.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vilnius: Visit Užupis, a quirky neighborhood of Vilnius, with a member of its government. Learn how a small community of artists created this self-proclaimed republic in order to revitalize post-communist Vilnius.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Tallinn:** Choose a scenic walking tour of the city with your Local Expert, complete with panoramic views and a visit to Town Hall Square. Alternatively, take a stroll through the fairy-tale Old Town to discover Estonian artisans.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Warsaw • Dine-Around Evening in Vilnius • Estonian Celebration Dinner in Tallinn.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Vilnius • Votive Hill Crosses in Šiauliai • Trakai Castle. City tours of Warsaw, Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn, all with Local Experts.

# WARSAW & THE BALTIC STATES

"My favourite expression in Estonian that I love to teach guests is 'terviseks,' which means cheers. It sounds very charming in my opinion." **– Gennady, Travel Director** 





TRADITIONAL BIGOS



VILNIUS

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#### DAY 1 ARRIVE WARSAW

On arrival at Warsaw airport, your transfers depart for your hotel at 10:30, 12:30 and 15:30. Relax and settle in before joining your Travel Director at 18:00.

Your Welcome Dinner is at Restaurant Zapiecek, an authentic local restaurant full of Polish charm that serves delicious traditional meals, accompanied by wine. (DW)

#### The Westin Warsaw.

## DAY 2 EXPLORING THE PROUD POLISH CAPITAL OF WARSAW

A Local Expert will show you how well the Polish capital was restored after almost complete obliteration during World War II. This incredible restoration can be credited to the amazing detail of Canaletto's paintings! Pass the tiered Palace of Culture and stroll through Łazienki Park to the Chopin Memorial. Take a moment to reflect at the Monument to Ghetto Heroes, built in 1948 to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. Then walk to the Market Square in the Old Town.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the University Botanic Gardens with a biologist. The garden's main function is the protection of biological diversity and the conservation of endangered Polish wild species. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Don't miss the chance to visit Wilanow Palace, the residence of Polish King Sobieski, known as Victor of Vienna, or perhaps attend an exclusive private recital of Chopin music by a celebrated Polish pianist? (B)

## DAY 3 VILNIUS, VENERABLE CAPITAL OF LITHUANIA

Pass Augustów and Suwalki during your scenic journey through Masuria, a region rich in lakes and vast forests. Cross into Lithuania and continue to the capital city of Vilnius. See the Baroque Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, the neoclassical cathedral and the charming Old Town. (B)

Radisson Blu Royal Astorija Hotel, Vilnius.

#### DAY 4 VILNIUS AND THE CASTLE OF TRAKAI

Walk along the streets of bohemian Užupis, a Vilnius neighborhood that proclaimed itself a republic in 2002. A member of the government introduces you to its quirky history and artistic flair. A highlight of your travels will be a visit to the fortified island castle of Trakai. Originally built in the 15th century and now restored to all its glory, this red-brick castle is located on an island in Lake Galvé. Choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

# DAY 5 THE VOTIVE HILL OF CROSSES AND THE ART NOUVEAU NIRVANA OF RIGA

Head north to visit the unusual Votive Hill of Crosses near Siauliai, the symbol of resistance against the Soviet occupation. Continue your journey to the Latvian capital of Riga, a melange of Teutonic-inspired spires, stylish cocktail lounges and some of the world's most remarkable art nouveau architecture. (B)

Radisson Blu Elizabete Hotel, Riga.





# DAY 6 RIGA SIGHTSEEING AND ONTO TALLINN

Explore Riga's Old Town with your Local Expert, including a visit to the old aircraft hangars that now house the Riga Central Market, one of the largest in Eastern Europe.

#### Enjoy the vibrant colours and flavours when sampling some of the local delicacies as you wander through the maze of stalls.

Your travels continue along the shores of the Gulf of Riga and across the Estonian border to reach Tallinn. Hailed by travel aficionados as the new Prague, Tallinn is a lively city, where history and modern culture merge. From its brightly coloured architecture to its quirky art scenes, Tallinn is made for the curious and creative. (B)

#### Swissotel Tallinn.

## DAY 7 SURRENDER TO THE MAGIC OF TALLINN

**Relaxed Start.** Explore Tallinn with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a panoramic walking tour leading to the Town Hall Square. Alternatively, stroll the fairy-tale Old Town and hear about Estonian artisans.

Enjoy free time to browse Tallinn's shops, famous for fine amber and silver jewelery.

Join your travelling companions at a local restaurant for your Celebration Dinner. Toast to your trip, as you savour a freshly prepared meal, rich with traditional flavours and accompanied with wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 8 DEPART TALLINN

Departure transfers arrive at Tallinn airport at 05:00 and 10:00. (B)



O TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See Warsaw's charming Old Town Market Square with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Travelling\_ insighttim, Day 2, Warsaw)



#### KEY

ൽ Join/Leave Options ⊞UNESCO Heritage Site

1 Central Hotels + Nights

Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



| 2023                | 2024                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 26       | <b>APR</b>  24          |
| <b>MAY  </b> 10, 24 | MAY 08, 22              |
| <b>JUN  </b> 07, 21 | <b>JUN </b> 05, 19      |
| <b>JUL</b>  05, 19  | <b>JUL  </b> 03, 17, 31 |
| AUG 02, 16, 30      | <b>AUG  </b> 14, 28     |
| <b>SEP</b> 06, 13   | <b>SEP</b> 04, 11       |
|                     |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/northerncapitals

REGIONAL JOURNEY
 ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 ACTIVITY LEVEL:
 BALANCED
 ACTIVITY
 ACTIVITY

14 DAYS 8 COUNTRIES 18 MEALS 14 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.4<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Berlin:** Savour the warm atmosphere of your delicious Welcome Dinner at Kreuzberger Himmel. This popular local restaurant actively supports refugees' integration into German society, providing apprenticeships.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vilnius: Visit Užupis, a quirky neighborhood of Vilnius, with a member of its government. Learn how a small community of artists created this self-proclaimed republic in order to revitalize post-communist Vilnius.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Tallinn:** Choose a scenic walking tour of the city with your Local Expert, complete with panoramic views and a visit to Town Hall Square. Alternatively, take a stroll through the fairy-tale Old Town to discover Estonian artisans.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

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Welcome Dinner in Berlin • Dine Around in Vilnius • Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in Warsaw.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel across the Baltic Sea by ferry from Germany to Denmark • Cruise the Baltic Sea from Stockholm to Helsinki • Travel by ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn.

Visit Tivoli Gardens and Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen • Stockholm's City Hall.

City tours of Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Vilnius and Warsaw, all with Local Experts.

# NORTHERN CAPITALS

'I love introducing our guests to the coolest capitals of Europe. Bohemian Copenhagen, modern Oslo, stunning Stockholm and trendy Helsinki are here to impress with world-class sights and dining opportunities.' **- Zsofi Ferencz** 







STOCKHOLM

PIEROGI

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO BERLIN

On arrival at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, transfers depart at 10.30, 13:00 &16:00.

At 18:30, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with your Travel Director and travel companions at the Kreuzberger Himmel restaurant. Discover how this establishment helps support refugees as they integrate into German society over a Welcome Dinner with wine. (DW)

#### Hotel NH Collection Berlin Mitte am Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin.

#### DAY 2 THE SPIRIT OF BERLIN

**Relaxed Start.** Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the Unter den Linden, past the Humboldt University and Opera House. Stop a while on Museum Island, then pass the Brandenberg Gate to see the Reichstag building and the Tiergarten. (B)

#### Marriott Hotel Berlin.

#### DAY 3 ACROSS THE SEA TO COPENHAGEN

Continue to Rostock for the sea crossing to Denmark. A journey through the Danish countryside brings you to Copenhagen. In the evening, delight in the enchanting atmosphere of the Tivoli Gardens. (B)

#### Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen.

#### DAY 4 WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

Visit Christiansborg Palace with a Local Expert. Journey past Copenhagen Cathedral and the university to see Rosenborg Castle, the Renaissance Stock Exchange and Amalienborg Palace, before admiring Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid. (B)

#### DAY 5 TO STOCKHOLM, CITY OF ISLANDS

Enjoy a view of Kronborg Castle, reputedly the Elsinore home of Hamlet, during the short ferry crossing to Sweden.

Your journey then continues along the shores of Lake Vättern and on to Stockholm. (B)

#### Hilton Stockholm Slussen.



#### DAY 6 STOCKHOLM AND A BALTIC CRUISE

Visit City Hall with a Local Expert and cross the harbour to see the cathedral and Royal Palace. Board your cruise ship for the overnight voyage to Finland with a sea-view cabin. (B) (DW)

#### Serenade/Symphony—Tallink & Silja Line Ships.

#### DAY 7 FASHIONABLE HELSINKI

Relaxed Start. Disembark your Baltic cruise and explore Helsinki alongside your Local Expert. Wander through the aromatic stalls of a traditional food market and sample local produce like liquorice or smoked reindeer. (B)

#### Klaus K Hotel, Helsinki.

#### **DAY 8** FINNISH COUNTRYSIDE

Venture into the lush Finnish countryside and join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at Bosgård Organic Farm. Learn about their sustainable practices and try some authentic produce from the farm. Later, visit the picturesque town of Porvoo, one of the most photographed places in Finland. Spend the evening at leisure back in Helsinki. (B)

## **DAY 9** SURRENDER TO THE MAGIC OF TALLINN

This morning cross the sea to Estonia. Explore Tallinn with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a panoramic walking tour leading to the Town Hall Square. Alternatively, stroll the fairy-tale Old Town and hear about Estonian artisans. Enjoy free time to browse Tallinn's shops, famous for fine amber and silver jewelery. (B)

#### Swissotel Tallinn.

#### DAY 10 ON TO RIGA

**Relaxed Start.** Today you make your way to the Latvian capital of Riga.

Explore Riga's Old Town with your Local Expert, including a visit to the old aircraft hangars that now house the Riga Central Market, one of the largest in Eastern Europe. Enjoy the vibrant colours and flavours when sampling some of the local delicacies as you wander through the maze of stalls. (B)

Radisson Blu Elizabete Hotel, Riga.

#### **DAY 11 EXPLORE VILNIUS**

Cross into Lithuania and visit the Hill of Crosses before arriving in the capital city of Vilnius. Walk along the streets of bohemian Užupis, a Vilnius neighborhood that proclaimed itself a republic in 2002. A member of the government introduces you to its quirky history and artistic flair.

Choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Vilnius.

#### DAY 12 REJUVENATED WARSAW

Pass lakeside Augustow during a scenic journey through Masuria, a region blessed with a plethora of lakes and forests. Your destination will be the Polish capital, faithfully rebuilt after the devastation of World War II. (B) (DW)

#### The Westin Warsaw.

#### DAY 13 EXPLORING WARSAW

Relaxed Start. Join a Local Expert to see the Palace of Culture and stroll through Łazienki Park to the Chopin Memorial. Take a moment to reflect at the Monument to Ghetto Heroes, then walk to Market Square in the Old Town.

Join your newfound friends for a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant and enjoy a fine selection of local dishes, with wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 DEPART WARSAW

Your transfers will arrive at Warsaw airport at 07:30 and 10:00. (B)  $\,$ 



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TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Pass Brandenburg Gate with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Duncan\_noel, Day 2, Berlin)



# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our quests and

By our guests and Travel Directors



(C) @PHOTOS\_BY\_NWALL MYKONOS, GREECE



(CAIRO, EGYPT



TRAVELLINGINSIGHTTIM
 JERASH, JORDAN



(C) @TRAVELLINGINSIGHTTIM MASADA, ISRAEL



O asusz7 Asklepion, Turkey



O @AMANDA.MARIE.71465 OLYMPIA, GREECE



(C) @LAURAMARGARETMARY MYKONOS, GREECE



O @ERININSIGHT SANTORINI, GREECE



# **Lediterranean**



Splendours of Egypt 12 DAYS | PAGE 174

Wonders of Turkey 11 DAYS | PAGE 176

Treasures of Turkey 15 DAYS | PAGE 178

Jordan Experience (with Dead Sea Option) 7/9 DAYS | PAGE 180 Land of the Prophets 26 DAYS | PAGE 182 Glories of Greece

Glories of Greece 7 DAYS | PAGE 184



Greek Island Hopper 10 DAYS | Available online

Mediterranean Fables

Mediterranean Dreams 8 DAYS | Available online

Grecian Fables 15 DAYS | Available online

Treasures of Greece

& the Islands 14 DAYS | Available online

Israel Discovery 9 DAYS | Available online



Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to watch a video about Egypt.

| 2023                          | 2024                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 | <b>JAN  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28   | FEB 07, 14, 21, 28              |
| <b>JUL  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26   | MAR   06, 13, 20, 27            |
| AUG   02, 09, 16,             | <b>APR  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24     |
| 23,30                         | <b>MAY</b> 01, 08, 15,          |
| SEP 06, 13, 20, 27            | 22,29                           |
| <b>OCT</b> 04, 11, 18, 25     | <b>JUN  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26     |
| <b>NOV</b> 01, 08, 15,        | <b>JUL</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31   |
| 22, 29                        | <b>AUG</b> 07, 14, 21, 28       |
| <b>DEC</b> 06, 13, 20, 27     | <b>SEP</b> 04, 11, 18, 25       |
|                               |                                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/wondersegypt

® REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

9 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 17 MEALS 20 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Cairo:** Cruise to Qursaya Island by boat and meet the members of VeryNile, the first large scale initiative to clean the Nile. The project raises awareness and supports local fishermen to make an income.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Luxor:** Enjoy listening to stories of village life from local residents, when you visit a family home for a tasting of authentic Egyptian sun bread.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Cairo:** Meet the members of the VeryNile or Guided by your Local Expert, explore the Cairo Citadel and see the Great Alabaster Mosque.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Egyptian dinner and galabeya party on the Nile cruise.

Follow in the footsteps of Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie as you enjoy high tea at Aswan's famous Old Cataract Hotel, as the sun begins to set.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Cruise the Nile for four-nights from Luxor to Aswan • Travel with return flights from Cairo • Ride a Nile felucca.

# WONDERS OF EGYPT

"Araby is our Local Expert, who we call the bird watcher. As you sail across the Nile in Aswan with him, he points out the birdlife passing by the nature reserve islands." **– Hazem, Travel Director** 

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND





LUXOR TEMPLE, LUXOR



(C) @JUSTICETRIPS, CAIRO

#### DAY 1 ARRIVE IN CAIRO

Welcome to the timeless land of the pharaohs. On arrival at Cairo International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

#### DAY 2 FLY TO LUXOR, CRUISE THE NILE

In the morning, fly to Luxor and visit the huge temple complex of Karnak. Walk through the avenue of ram-headed sphinxes to stand among the columns of the Hypostyle Hall.

Later, transfer to your cruise ship, your home for the next four nights. After lunch on board, take a walk through the Luxor Museum, witness ancient artefacts.

#### Get to know your Travel Director, a professionally trained Egyptologist, as well as fellow guests over a welcome drink followed by dinner.

The rest of your evening is at leisure. (B) (L) (DW)

MS Medea or MS Miriam (or similar).

#### DAY 3 VALLEY OF THE KINGS TO EDFU

This morning, travel by coach to the west bank of the Nile.

See the Colossi of Memnon and visit both the Temple of Hatshepsut and the Valley of the Kings, where many pharaohs were buried, including Hatshepsut, Amenhotep I and Tutankhamun. Experience the renowned local hospitality of Egyptians during a visit to the village of Geziret Bahirat. Connect with the community and share bread with the Bahirat family, whilst they regale guests with their fascinating stories of daily life. Visit the massive Luxor Temple complex, which archeologists began excavating in the 1860s and didn't complete until the 1960s. Return to your cruise ship and sail via the Esna Lock to Edfu, for your overnight stay. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 4 KOM OMBO TO ASWAN

**Relaxed Start.** In the early morning sail to Kom Ombo to visit the only double temple of Egypt dedicated to two gods, the crocodile-headed Sobek and the falcon-headed Horus the Elder.

In the evening, enjoy a fun-filled Egyptian dinner and galabeya party on board your ship. (B) (L) (D)

# **DAY 5** ASWAN'S HIGH DAM AND NILE FELUCCA

In the morning, visit the Aswan High Dam and granite quarries, to see the enormous unfinished obelisk.

Travel by motorboat to the Temple of Isis. Rising from the waters of the Nile on the Island of Philae, it was the last temple built in the classical Egyptian style.

Later, on a traditional Nile Felucca, meet a sailor and learn about traditional sailing practices.

As the sun starts to fade, enjoy high tea at the historic Old Cataract Hotel. The likes of Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie stayed at this pretty venue, and Christie supposedly wrote "Death on the Nile" from the hotel itself. (B) (L) (AT) (D)

#### DAY 6 ASWAN AND BACK TO CAIRO

Relaxed Start. This morning, disembark your cruise ship and enjoy time at leisure in Aswan. Why not join an Optional Experience and travel by air to the magnificent Temples of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel? These temples overlook Lake Nasser and are made up of the Great Temple of Ramesses II and the Temple of Hathor. Located in a village in Nubia, they are found in Upper Egypt. Otherwise, spend the morning as you wish. Perhaps soak up



O TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the unique double Temple of Kom Ombo. (Photo by @Insight.kathleen, Day 4, Kom Ombo)

the African atmosphere in the Nubian bazaar or visit one of the many points of interest nearby, such as the Botanical Gardens, Elephantine Island and the Aga Khan Mausoleum.

Later, transfer to the airport for your return flight to Cairo for the night. (B)  $% \left( {{\rm{B}}} \right)$ 

#### Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

# DAY 7 THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AND CITADEL

Begin your city sightseeing with your Egyptologist at the world-famous Egyptian Museum. Starring among its attractions is the amazing treasure recovered from Tutankhamun's tomb. Explore Cairo with Insight Choice. Choose to explore Cairo Citadel and see the Great Alabaster Mosque. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience on Qursaya Island, home to the first large scale initiative to clean the Nile. Later, you will have free time to enjoy as you wish. In the evening, take your seats at the magical Sound and Light Show at the Great Pyramids which literally illuminates the history of Giza - an unforgettable introduction to the world of ancient Egypt. (B)

#### DAY 8 THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

Gain a deeper understanding of the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, during a visit to Giza with your Egyptologist. Meet the enigmatic Sphinx, crouching at the foot of the Chephrenís Causeway and venture inside one of the magnificent Pyramids.

Nearby lies Memphis, capital of the Old Kingdom, where you can see the colossal statue of Ramesses II and the great Alabaster Sphinx. Continue to Sakkara to view the Step Pyramid of Zoser, which dates back 2686 B.C., making it the oldest pyramid in the world. Enjoy free time in the afternoon. (B)

#### DAY 9 DEPART CAIRO

After breakfast, transfer to Cairo airport. (B)

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TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Witness the majestic Temple of Isis rising from the waters. (Photo by @Ulla\_insight, Day 5, Philae Island)





#### 지도 I 쥓 Join/Leave Options

- 1 Central
- Hotels + Nights
- Hotels + Nights • Place Visited • Optional Place Visited
- ದಿ Cruise

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



| 2023                          | 2024                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>MAY</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 | <b>JAN  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
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| 23,30                         | MAY 01,08,15,                   |
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| 22,29                         | <b>AUG</b> 07, 14, 21, 28       |
| DEC 06, 13, 20, 27            | <b>SEP</b> 04, 11, 18, 25       |
|                               |                                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/splendoursegypt

Combine this trip with **Israel Discovery** and **Jordan Experience** to create **Land of the Prophets**.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

**12 DAYS** 1 COUNTRY 26 MEALS 21 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

**feefo**<sup>e</sup> **4.5**<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW **\*\*\*\*** 

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Luxor:** Enjoy listening to stories of village life from local residents, when you visit a family home for a tasting of authentic Egyptian sun bread.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

**Aswan:** Follow in the footsteps of Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie as you enjoy high tea at Aswan's famous Old Cataract Hotel, as the sun begins to set.

Egyptian dinner and galabeya party on the Nile cruise.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel with return flights from Cairo • Ride a Nile felucca.

Visit the Karnak Temple Complex • Dendera Temple • Valley of the Kings and Temple Hatshepsut on the West Bank • Luxor Temple • Temple of Kom Ombo • High Dam and Granite Quarries of Aswan • Temple of Isis on the Island of Philae • Egyptian Museum • Pyramids of Giza.

See the Colossi of Memnon • Cairo Citadel • Great Alabaster Mosque • Giza's Sound and Light Show • Statue of Rameses II and the Alabaster Sphinx in Memphis • Sakkara's Step Pyramid of Zoser I.

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# SPLENDOURS OF EGYPT

"Guests love visiting a family home in Luxor, to learn about the local culture and taste the traditional Egyptian sun bread." – Ossama, Travel Director

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND





EGYPTIAN SUN BREAD, LUXOR



@ULLA, PHILAE TEMPLE

#### **DAY 1** ARRIVE IN CAIRO

Welcome to the timeless land of the pharaohs. On arrival at Cairo International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

#### DAY 2 FLY TO LUXOR. CRUISE THE NILE

In the morning, fly to Luxor and visit the huge temple complex of Karnak. Walk through the avenue of ram-headed sphinxes to stand among the columns of the Hypostyle Hall.

Later, transfer to your cruise ship, your home for the next seven nights. After lunch on board, take a walk through the Luxor Museum, witness ancient artefacts

#### This evening, get to know your Travel Director, a professionally trained Egyptologist, as well as fellow guests over a Welcome Drink followed by dinner. The rest of the evening is at leisure. (B) (L) (DW)

MS Medea or MS Miriam (or similar).

#### DAY 3 EXPLORING DENDERA AND ON TO EDELL

In the morning, visit the Temple of Hathor in Dendera. One of the best-preserved temples in Equpt, it contains a rare depiction of Cleopatra and her son Caesarian.

At lunchtime return to your ship and enjoy a scenic journey via the Esna Lock to Edfu. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 4 EDFU TO ASWAN

Start the day with breakfast, as you cruise along the Nile to Kom Ombo before continuing on to the city of Aswan. Famous for its archaeological sites, such as the Philae temple complex and the Temple of Isis, Aswan is an agreeable mix of ancient and contemporary Egypt.

In the evening, enjoy a fun-filled Egyptian dinner and galabeya party. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 5 ASWAN'S HIGH DAM & TEMPLE OF ISIS

Today's sightseeing includes a visit to Aswan's High Dam and granite guarries, to see the enormous unfinished obelisk.

Travel by motorboat to the Temple of Isis, rising from the waters of the Nile on the Island of Philae. The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy the facilities on your cruise ship. Ask your Travel Director for recommendations on things to do onboard or perhaps ask for more insights into Egypt's fascinating history? (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 6 FELUCCAS AND HIGH TEA

Relaxed Start. Throughout your journey you'll have seen many feluccas sailing along the Nile. Now it's your time to explore one for yourself. On this traditional vessel, you'll meet a local sailor who will teach you about the ancient art of sailing. As the sun starts to fade, enjoy high tea at the historic Old Cataract Hotel, just like Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie once did before you. The hotel is rumoured to be where Christie wrote her bestselling novel, "Death on the Nile." (B) (L) (AT) (D)

#### DAY 7 FREE TIME AND ON TO KOM OMBO

Relaxed Start. With the morning free, perhaps join an Optional Experience to Abu Simbel? These temples overlook Lake Nasser and are made up of the Great Temple of Ramesses II and the Temple of Hathor.



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and the Valley of the Kings. (Photo by @insight.kathleen, Day 9, Luxor)

Later, sail to Kom Ombo to visit the only double temple of Egypt, dedicated to two gods: the crocodile-headed Sobek and the falcon-headed Horus the Elder. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 8 CRUISING THE NILE TO LUXOR

Relaxed Start. Your cruise continues along the bustling waters of the Nile. Enjoy the facilities on board and have your cameras at the ready for the sights, as you leisurely make your way to Luxor. In the evening, visit Luxor Temple, where you dock for the night. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 9 EXPLORE LUXOR AND FLY TO CAIRO

Disembark from your cruise and travel by coach to the west bank of the Nile

See the Colossi of Memnon and visit both the Temple of Hatshepsut and the Valley of the Kings, where many pharaohs were buried, including Hatshepsut, Amenhotep I and Tutankhamun. Experience the renowned local hospitality of Egyptians, during a visit to the village of Geziret Bahirat. Connect with the community and share bread with the Bahirat family, whilst they regale guests with their fascinating stories of daily life. Later, transfer to the airport for your return flight to Cairo. (B)

#### Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

#### **DAY 10** CAIRO SIGHTSEEING

Ascend to the Citadel and visit the Alabaster Mosque, otherwise known as the Great Mosque of Muhammad Ali Pasha, regarded as the founder of modern Egypt. Continue to Tahrir Square and visit the Egyptian Museum with your Egyptologist. Later, see history come to life on the pyramids as you witness the magical Sound and Light Show. (B)

#### DAY 11 CAIRO AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

Head to Memphis, the famous capital of the ancient world. See the colossal statue of Ramses II and the Great Alabaster Sphinx

.Continue to Sakkara to see the Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the oldest pyramid in the world, dating back to 2700 B.C.

In the afternoon, it's on to Giza to explore the magnificent pyramids. Here you'll come face-toface with the enigmatic Sphinx. Venture inside one of these ancient wonders to see the chambers where the pharaohs were sent to meet their gods in the afterlife. (B)

#### **DAY 12** DEPART CAIRO

After breakfast, transfer to Cairo airport. (B)



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TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore the magnificent Pyramids of Giza with your Egyptologist. (Photo by @Insightphilip, Day 10, Cairo)



#### **KEY**

∛ Join/Leave Options ★ Included Flights

- ⊞UNESCO Heritage Site
- 1 Central Hotels + Nights
- 1) Scenic Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited **O**Optional Place
- Visited 🛱 Cruise



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

CHOOSE YOUR

both classic and small

**GROUP SIZE** 

This trip operates

group departures.

You can also book

your own private

12 travellers.

group with as few as

| 2023                  | 2024                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>APR</b> 23         | FEB 01,29             |
| MAY   11, 25          | MAR 07, 14, 21        |
| JUN 22                | <b>APR</b> 04, 25, 23 |
| JUL 06, 20            | MAY 09, 23            |
| AUG   03, 17, 31      | <b>JUN  </b> 06, 20   |
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| <b>NOV</b> 02, 09, 16 | SEP   12, 26          |
| <b>DEC</b>   14, 22   |                       |
|                       |                       |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/wondersturkey

A special ANZAC departure spends two nights in the Gallipoli peninsula and attend the ANZAC Day Dawn service.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 18 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>es</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup>

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Ayvalik:** Visit the vibrant Copmadam workshop which produces one-of-a-kind items made from recycled packaging, creating employment opportunities for local women.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Cappadocia:** Join a Cappadocian local, who has lived in the city for decades and take a tour of their cave house to learn more about their unique way of life.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Istanbul • Sema performance in a stone house followed by dinner in Cappadocia • Celebration Dinner in Istanbul.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by ferry across the Dardanelles • Cruise along the Bosphorus.

Visit Gallipoli Peninsula • Troy • Asklepion in Pergamon • Ephesus • Seljuk Caravanserai in Anatolia • Mausoleum of Atatürk in Ankara • Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and Grand Bazaar in Istanbul.

City tours of Pergamon, Konya, Göreme and Istanbul, all with Local Experts.

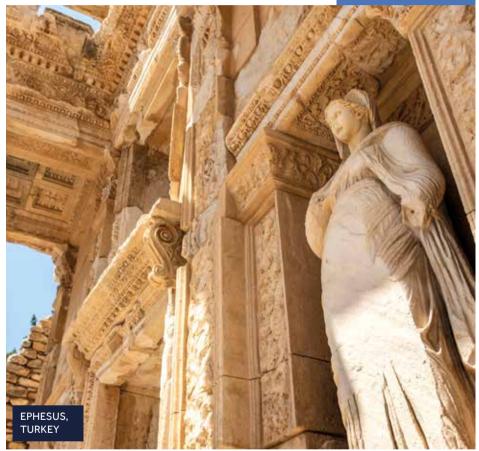
See Anzac Cove at Gallipoli • the reconstructed Trojan Horse • the city of Izmir • Cotton Castle and ruins of Hierapolis in Pamukkale • Karatay Medrese, Ince Minaret and Mevlana Tekke Museum in Konya • Potters at work in Avanos.

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# WONDERS OF TURKEY

"Guests love our visit to the traditional cave homes of Cappadocia. The locals we meet have many interesting stories to share about life in a cave dwelling." **- Orhan, Travel Director** 

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND









ISTANBUL

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul. On arrival, a representative will pick you up from the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

Join your Travel Director at 18:30 for a Welcome Dinner, where you'll get to know your fellow travellers. (DW)

#### Grand Hyatt Istanbul.

#### DAY 2 GALLIPOLI AND ANZAC COVE

Make your way along the shores of the Sea of Marmara to historic Gallipoli. Located in the southern part of East Thrace, it was here that for nine months during the Great War, Anzac troops fought to gain control of the Dardanelles Strait. Learn more about these events as you visit Anzac Cove and Lone Pine Cemetrey. (B)

#### DoubleTree by Hilton Canakkale, Canakkale.

#### DAY 3 TROY, PERGAMON AND IZMIR

Begin your day with a trip to Homer's city of Troy, the focal point of the Trojan War. A replica of the mighty Trojan horse, which helped the Greeks capture the city in 1200 B.C., can be seen beside the city's walls. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at Copmadam, a women's co-op turning recycled materials into unique items, and addressing women's employment issues. Continue your journey to Pergamon. Once a powerful ancient Greek city, you'll find the Asklepion temple here, built in honor of Asklepios, the god of medicine.

End your day in the coastal city of Izmir. (B) (DW)

Swissotel Büyük Efes, Izmir.

#### DAY 4 ANCIENT EPHESUS AND KUSADASI

**Relaxed Start.** Start your morning with a trip to the nearby town of Selçuk. Home to the House of the Virgin Mary and the Temple of Artemis, you'll begin with an educational visit to the Archaeological Museum. Delve into the area's history as you explore the museum's exhibits.

Later, explore the famous site itself. Walk through the colonnaded Arcadian Way, see the Library of Celsus and the huge Amphitheater, before visiting the House of the Virgin Mary. (B) (DW)

#### Charisma De Luxe Hotel, Kusadasi.

#### KEY

彩 Join/Leave Options

Heritage Site

1 Central Hotels + Nights

(1) Scenic Hotels + Nights

Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.

#### DAY 5 THE POOLS OF PAMUKKALE

This morning, head to a local organic farm and meet the agricultural director, who will take you on a walking tour of the eco-friendly lands. You'll have the satisfying task of picking fruits and vegetables from his fields.

Delight in a mouth-watering Farm-to-Table lunch, prepared with fresh produce from the farm. Next, make your way to Pamukkale. Visit the ruins of the ancient Roman spa city of Hierapolis, founded in 190 B.C. You'll see the city's wellpreserved theater and its turquoise travertine pools. (B) (L) (DW)

#### Doğa Thermal Health & Spa, Pamukkale.

## DAY 6 KONYA, THE WHIRLING DERVISHES AND CAPPADOCIA

Today, you'll explore Konya. The home of the Whirling Dervish, this city offers tradition in abundance. Visit the Mevlana Tekke museum, with its recognisable turquoise dome. See the Karatay Madrasa, built in 1251, before moving on to the Ince Minaret, a 13th century madrasa. Continue your journey to Urgup, an historic town in the heart of Cappadocia. Your abode for the night is the unique Alfina Cave Hotel Cappadocia, built in old cave dwellings. (B) (DW)

Alfina Cave Hotel Cappadocia.

# DAY 7 THE UNDERGROUND CITIES OF CAPPADOCIA EXPERIENCE

Move on to Göreme, a town in the Cappadocia region of Turkey. Explore its rock-hewn churches decorated with ancient wall paintings before moving on to the Pasabag Valley. Later, visit the underground city of Özkonak, where you'll have time to explore its tunnels and caves with your Travel Director before joining a Cappadocian local who has lived in the city for decades and take a tour of their cave house. Dinner tonight will be accompanied by a performance of Whirling Dervishes. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 8 ANKARA

This morning, learn about the art of earthenware pottery making in Avanos.

On your way, stop off at one of the best-preserved Seljuk Caravanserais in Anatolia.

Continue your journey to Ankara, where you'll visit the Hittite Museum and Anit Kabir, the Mausoleum of Atatürk—Turkey's greatest modern leader. (B)

#### Ankara HiltonSA, Ankara.

#### DAY 9 TO ISTANBUL

It's time to head to Istanbul. A glorious fusion of east and west, this popular city offers something for everyone, with history, culture, modernity, delicious cuisine and of course, the friendliest of faces. Board a cruise along the Bosphorus. As you make your way from Eminönü to the Black Sea, witness the area's beautiful Ottoman palaces and fortresses lining the waterfront. (B)

#### Grand Hyatt Istanbul.

#### DAY 10 ISTANBUL & THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Take in the sites of Istanbul. In the morning, visit the historic Blue Mosque with its tiled interiors. See the Hippodrome, where Roman chariot races were held, before exploring Hagia Sophia. Built in A.D. 537, it is famous for its domed roof. Visit the Topkapi Palace, perched above the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. Enjoy the excitement of bargaining in the bustling Grand Bazaar.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers for a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 11 FAREWELL ISTANBUL

It's time to say goodbye to your new friends, as your trip comes to an end. A transfer will take you to the airport for your onward flights. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit Troy and view the huge reconstructed Trojan Horse. (Photo by @Susz7, Day 3, Cannakale)



| 2023                | 2024                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 14, 30 | <b>APR  </b> 12, 26     |
| <b>MAY  </b> 14, 28 | <b>MAY  </b> 12,26      |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 25 | <b>JUN  </b> 09, 23     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 09, 23 | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21     |
| AUG   06, 20        | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 18     |
| <b>SEP  </b> 03, 17 | <b>SEP  </b> 03, 15, 29 |
| <b>ОСТ  </b> 01, 15 | <b>OCT  </b> 13         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/treasuresturkey

**A special ANZAC departure** spends two nights in Gallipoli and attends the ANZAC Day Dawn service.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

15 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 24 MEALS 23 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Uçhisar:** Enjoy the unique flavours of Anatolia at Uçhisar Kadineli Restaurant, where every dish is homemade with love. This remarkable establishment provides employment for more than 65 women from the village.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Cappadocia:** Join a Cappadocian local who has lived in the city for decades and take a tour of their cave house to learn more about their unique way of life.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant in Istanbul • Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant in Istanbul.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by cruise along Bosphorus • Ride a ferry across the Dardanelles.

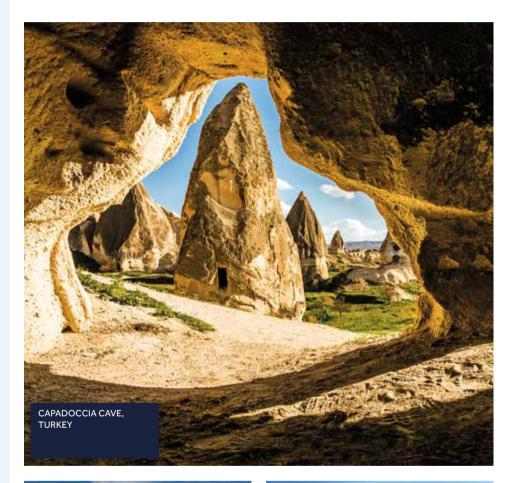
Visit Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and Grand Bazaar in Istanbul • Grand Mosque, Green Mosque and Mausoleum in Bursa • Mausoleum of Atatürk in Ankara • Pasabag Valley in Göreme • Mevlana Tekke Museum in Konya • Seljuk Caravanserai in Anatolia • Roman Theatre in Aspendos • Archaeological Museum in Ephesus • Troy • Asklepion in Pergamon • Gallipoli Peninsula.

City tours of Göreme, Konya, Pergamon and Istanbul, all with Local Experts.

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# TREASURES OF TURKEY

"Turkey is packed with cultural heritage, amazing food and unbelievable scenery. There is truly something for everyone." – Daghan, Travel Director





@SUSZ7, PAMUKKALE



@DAGHANER, EPHESUS

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul. On arrival, a representative will pick you up from the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

Join your Travel Director at 18:30 for a Welcome Dinner, where you'll get to know your fellow travellers. (DW)

#### Grand Hyatt Istanbul.

#### **DAY 2** BOSPHORUS CRUISE AND BURSA

Embark on a cruise along Bosphorus Strait. Travel towards the old city and see the beautiful Ottoman palaces and fortresses, on the waterfront. . Later, leave Istanbul for Bursa.

This evening, venture to a local restaurant for a tasty meal. (B) (DW)

Mövenpick Bursa Hotel and Thermal Spa.

#### **DAY 3** CUMALIKIZIK AND GORDION

Begin your day of culture in Bursa with a visit to the Green Mosque, the Grand Mosque and the Mausoleum complex.

Continue to the charming village of Cumalikizik. Later move on to Gordion, before making your way to Ankara.(B)

Ankara HiltonSA, Ankara.

#### **DAY 4** SOPHISTICATED ANKARA

Sightseeing includes a visit to the Hittite Museum and Anit Kabir, the Mausoleum of Atatürk. Later, head to Avanos in Cappadocia. Famed for its unique geological formation, Cappadocia is a scenic delight with golden hills and panoramic views. (B) (DW)

#### DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos, Cappadocia.

#### **DAY 5** THE UNDERGROUND CITIES OF **CAPPADOCIA EXPERIENCE**

Today, you'll travel to the striking town of Göreme. Explore its rock-hewn churches decorated with ancient wall paintings.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the Uchisar Kadineli Restaurant and get a taste of Anatolia's regional flavours. This establishment

provides employment for the women of the village and supports their financial freedom. Next, continue on to the Pasabag Valley and visit the underground city of Özkonak. You will be welcomed into the home by a local Cappadocian living in an authentic cave house. Explore this unique way of living, learning about local traditions and family life.

Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant, later you'll witness a performance of Whirling Dervishes. (B) (L) (DW)

#### DAY 6 KONYA

Learn more about traditional pottery making in Avanos before journeying along the famous Silk Road to visit a 13th century caravanserai. Later, travel to Turkey's most religious city, Konya. See the Karatav Medrese and Ince Minaret, and visit the Mevlana Museum. (B) (DW)

#### Novotel Konva Hotel.

#### **DAY 7** THROUGH THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS

Take a scenic drive down the Taurus Mountains to Aspendos, an ancient city in Antalya province. (B) (DW)

#### Akra Barut Antalya.

#### DAY 8 ANTALYA'S OLD TOWN

Visit Antalya's pretty Old Town. The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy the leisure facilities at your hotel. (B)

#### DAY 9 THE POOLS OF PAMUKKALE

Cross the Taurus Mountains to see the remains of the ancient city of Hierapolis. Next to the ruins, you can see the gleaming white travertine terraces of Pamukkale. (B) (DW)

#### Doğa Thermal Health & Spa, Pamukkale.

#### DAY 10 IZMIR

Visit the Temple of Aphrodite in Geyre. End your day in the quaint Aegan port of Izmir. (B)

Swissotel Büyük Efes, Izmir.

#### **DAY 11** ANCIENT EPHESUS

Spend the day exploring the fascinating archeological sites of Izmir. Later, journey to one of the world's finest archaeological sites. Ephesus, Walk through the colonnaded Arcadian Way, see the Library of Celsus and the huge Amphitheatre, before visiting the house of the Virgin Mary. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 PERGAMON, TROY AND ÇANAKKALE.

Start your day in Pergamon, where you find the Asklepion.

Next, head to Homer's city of Troy, the focal point of the Trojan war and the backdrop to one of history's most famous love stories. A replica of the mighty Trojan Horse can be found beside the city's walls. After some time exploring, continue your journey to Canakkale. (B)

#### Kolin Hotel. Canakkale.

#### DAY 13 GALLIPOLI AND ANZAC COVE

Cross the Dardanelles Strait by ferry to the Gallipoli Peninsula. Located in the southern part of East Thrace, it was here that, for nine months during the Great War, Anzac troops fought, in an attempt to gain control of the Dardanelles Strait. Learn more about these events as you visit Anzac Cove and pay your respects at the Lone Pine Cemetrey. Later, return to Istanbul. (B)

#### Grand Hyatt Istanbul.

#### DAY 14 ISTANBUL AND THE OTTOMAN FMPIRF

In the morning, visit the historic Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and see the Hippodrome where Roman chariot races were held. Visit the Topkapi Palace, perched above the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the primary inlet of the waterway. Enjoy the excitement of bargaining in the bustling Grand Bazaar.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers for a Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 15 FAREWELL ISTANBUL**

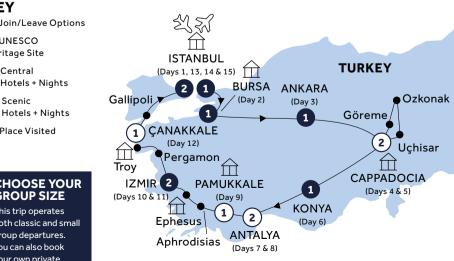
It's time to say goodbye to your new friends, as your trip comes to an end. A transfer will take you to the airport for your onward flights. (B)



**INSIGHT EXPERIENCE** Meet a Cappadocian local and tour their cave house. (Photo by @Susz7, Day 5, Cappadocia)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



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#### **KEY** ∛ Join/Leave Options ûunesco Heritage Site

1 Central Hotels + Nights 1) Scenic

Place Visited



This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also b<u>ook</u> vour own private group with as few as 12 travellers.

| 2023                  | 2024                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| MAY   11, 25          | <b>JAN  </b> 04, 18     |
| <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22   | FEB   01, 15, 29        |
| <b>JUL</b> 06, 13, 20 | MAR   14, 28            |
| AUG   03, 17, 31      | <b>APR</b> 11, 25       |
| <b>SEP</b> 14, 28     | MAY 09, 23              |
| OCT   12              | <b>JUN  </b> 06, 20     |
| <b>NOV</b> 02, 09, 23 | <b>JUL  </b> 04, 11, 18 |
| <b>DEC</b> 07, 21, 28 | <b>AUG  </b> 01, 15, 29 |
|                       | SEP   12, 26            |
|                       |                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/jordanexpdeadsea

This tour combines with Israel Discovery to form Israel and Jordan with the Dead Sea.

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: DYNAMIC

7 DAYS

1 COUNTRY 12 MEALS 9 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Amman: Visit the Iraq-Al Amir Women's Cooperative supported by the TreadRight Foundation. Learn some skills behind these traditional handicraft activities from the ladies of the cooperative and admire their work, which helps boost their financial livelihoods. Dine at Beit Khairat Souf women-owned café.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Wadi Rum:** Join an astronomer in one of the most magical places on earth for a private stargazing session, and sweeping views of the night sky.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Amman:** Choose to join a guided tour and discover the highlights of the city. Alternatively, explore Amman's street art scene on a guided graffiti walking tour.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Traditional Jordanian lunch in Jerash • Dine with local Bedouins at the Ammarin Camp in Petra • Traditional Jordanian barbecue dinner in Wadi Rum.

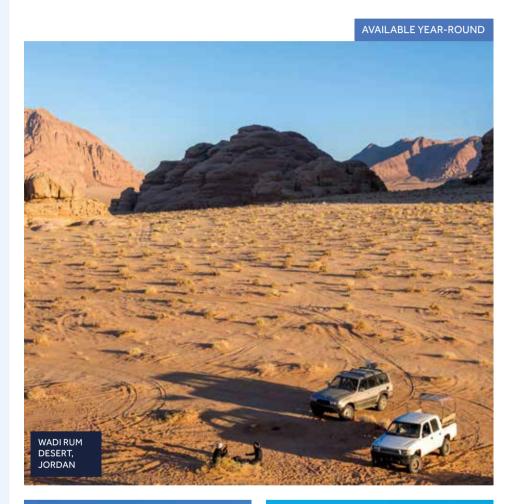
#### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

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Travel by jeep safari in Wadi Rum. Visit Jerash Ruins • Crusader Fortress of Shobak.

# JORDAN EXPERIENCE WITH DEAD SEA OPTION

"Guests love their experience in Jordan, making labneh balls at the Iraq Al Amir Women's Co-op, and the positive feeling they get helping to support the locals." **– Ahmed, Travel Director** 





PETRA



THE DEAD SEA

#### DAY 1 ARRIVE AMMAN

The landscape of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has changed very little in 2,000 years. On arrival at Amman airport, you are transferred to your hotel to relax and settle in.

Later, join your Travel Director for drinks and a Welcome Dinner. (DW)

Amman Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 2 EXPLORING AMMAN AND JERASH

After breakfast depart for Iraq AI-Amir for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Visit a women's cooperative involving women and girls from nearby Wadi AI Seer villages. The association is supported by Insight Vacations through The TreadRight Foundation and provides training and work opportunities for women in the region. Then, the journey to Jerash reveals the most beautifully preserved example of a Greco-Roman city still in existence. Enter through Hadrian's Arch, to explore the grand ruins of the Temples of Artemis and Zeus, where you can listen to the Whispering Column. Overlook the vast Oval Plaza and Cardo Maximus, the key Roman road.

Enjoy an al fresco lunch of natural produce and family recipes at Beit Khairat Souf, during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This women-owned café is combatting female unemployment and aims to build a strong community of women leaders. Return to Amman where the rest of the day is at leisure. (B) (L)

# DAY 3 MADABA, MOUNT NEBO, SHOBAK AND ON TO PETRA

Continue to Mount Nebo, one of the most revered holy sites of Jordan, where Moses is said to have stood and seen before him the Promised Land. At Madaba, visit the famous Greek Orthodox Church of St. George with its amazing 6th century mosaic map depicting the entire Holy Land, stretching from Jordan and Palestine in the north, to Egypt in the south. Follow the King's Highway to visit Shobak, an authentic 12th century crusader fortress, perched on the side of a rocky mountain. Admire the towers and Arabic calligraphy on the external walls before stepping inside to discover the original Crusader chapel, palace complex, and even a set of secret passages! Later, head south for one of the highlights of your journey: the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra, voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. (B) (DW)

Petra Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 4 EXPLORING THE LOST CITY OF PETRA

This day is devoted to the beautiful 'rose-red city, half as old as time'. You enter this lost city through a narrow gorge, the Siq, with walls that rise up to 200 metres. Emerge from the path to see the magnificent Treasury, carved out of solid rock and standing over 40 metres high.

Wind your way through the canyon to explore the ancient tombs and the Roman Amphitheater, which once seated 3,000 spectators.

Tonight, dine with locals in a stunning backdrop at the Ammarin desert camp. (B) (D)

DAY 5 WADI RUM WITH THE BEDOUIN

Head to Wadi Rum. Enjoy beautiful vistas as you make your way on a jeep safari deep, into the heart of Wadi Rum's majestic desert. *Enjoy the spectacular Bedouin hospitality tonight* 

as you dine with locals under the stars.

Wadi Rum is known as one of the world's best place for stargazing. After dinner join an astronomer for a private stargazing session, a magical experience. Stay in elegant simplicity in a desert camp for the night. (B) (D)

#### Sun City Camp, Wadi Rum.

#### DAY 6 AMMAN

If you wish, start the day with sunrise yoga at the Bedouin camp, before returning to Amman. Explore Amman with Insight Choice. Choose to join a guided sightseeing experience, highlighting the city's history, architecture and culture. Alternatively, explore Amman's street art scene on a guided graffiti walking tour.

Later, check in at your hotel where the rest of your day is at leisure.

Join in a lively dinner to celebrate the end of your Jordanian adventures. (B) (DW)

Amman Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 7 DEPART AMMAN

Your journey concludes with a transfer to the airport. Alternatively, why not extend your stay with a short drive to the lowest spot on earth? (B)

#### **OPTIONAL DEAD SEA EXTENSION**

#### DAY 7 ONWARDS TO THE DEAD SEA

**Relaxed Start.** Transfer to the Dead Sea for its warm, soothing and mineral-rich waters. Pamper yourself at your resort which offers a wide range of treatments to soothe the body and mind. (B) (DW)

Dead Sea Marriott Resort & Spa.

#### DAY 8 DEAD SEA AT LEISURE

**Relaxed Start.** Enjoy the entire day at your leisure. Lying more than 400 metres below sea level, this is Earth's lowest point on dry land. Its famous hypersaline water makes floating easy. The surrounding desert offers many oases and historic sites to explore. (B) (D)

#### DAY 9 DEPART AMMAN

After breakfast, you are transferred to Amman Airport for your onward flight.(B)





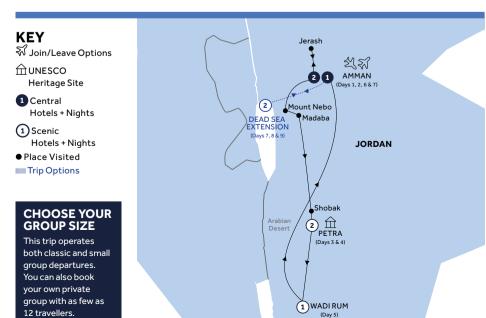
TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore the well preserved Greco-Roman City. (Day 2, Jerash)





INSIGHT EXPERIENCE Visit the Iraq Al-Amir Women's Co-op. (Photo by @travelling\_insighttim, Day 2, Amman)





| 2023                    | 2024                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>JAN  </b> 11,25      | <b>JAN  </b> 10, 24   |
| FEB   08, 22            | FEB   07, 21          |
| MAR   08, 22            | MAR   06, 20          |
| <b>MAY  </b> 03, 17, 31 | <b>APR  </b> 03       |
| <b>JUN  </b> 14, 28     | <b>MAY  </b> 01,15,29 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 12, 26     | <b>JUN  </b> 12, 28   |
| AUG   09, 23            | <b>JUL  </b> 10, 24   |
| <b>SEP  </b> 06         | AUG   07, 21          |
| <b>NOV  </b> 01, 15, 29 | <b>SEP</b> 04         |
| <b>DEC  </b> 13, 20, 27 |                       |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/prophets

This tour is a combination of **Israel Discovery, Jordan Experience** and **Splendours of Egypt**.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

26 DAYS 3 COUNTRIES 48 MEALS 14 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoes 4

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Amman:** Visit the Iraq-Al Amir Women's Cooperative supported by the TreadRight Foundation. Learn some skills behind these traditional handicraft activities from the ladies of the cooperative and admire their work, which helps boost their financial livelihoods.

Visit Agmon Hahula reserve in Israel.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

Wadi Rum: Join an astronomer in one of the most magical places on earth for a private stargazing session, and sweeping views of the night sky.

Meet an artist in Tel Aviv.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Amman: Choose to join a guided tour and discover the highlights of the city. Alternatively, explore Amman's street art scene on a guided graffiti walking tour.

Choose between two experiences in Galilee.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Friday Shabbat Dinner in Tiberias • Dine with Bedouins in Petra • Traditional barbecue dinner in Wadi Rum • High tea in Aswan.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel with return flights to Luxor • Ride a traditional Nile felucca • Swim in the Dead Sea • Join a Jeep safari in Wadi Rum.

# LAND OF THE PROPHETS

"Three religions come to life on this trip and are combined with modern culture, cuisine and sights." **– Rafael, Travel Director** 





VALLEY OF THE KINGS, EGYPT



TEL AVIV HARBOUR, ISRAEL

📩 Call an Insight Specialist on 0800 568769 or contact your preferred travel advisor

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#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO TEL AVIV

You will be met at Ben Gurion Airport and driven to your hotel in Tel Aviv.

At 19:30 meet your travel companions for a Welcome Reception and a short introduction to your Israeli adventures.

Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel.

#### DAY 2 EXPLORING VIBRANT TEL AVIV

**Relaxed Start.** See the Habimah National Theatre, Rabin Square and Carmel Market.

Venture along the seashore to the ancient city of Jaffa to see the famous clock tower and meet an artist for a tour of their studio. (B)

#### DAYS 3 - 4 GALILEE AND HULA VALLEY

In Nazareth, visit the Church of the Annunciation. The day concludes with a brief introduction to life on a Kibbutz.

#### Break traditional challah bread with your travel

companions over a cheerful Shabbat dinner. The following day, journey to the Hula Valley and join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in Agmon Hahula reserve. With a ranger, visit the ecological garden. (B) (DW) (B)

#### Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias.

#### DAY 5 TO THE DEAD SEA

Explore Galilee with Insight Choice. Choose to cruise the serene waters of lake Kinneret for glorious views of the Golan Heights. Alternatively, find out more about the remains of a 1st century fishing boat that was found embedded at the bottom of the lake.

Visit Capernaum, where Jesus is said to have entered the synagogue to teach. (B) (D)

#### Milos Dead Sea Hotel, Ein Bokek.

## DAY 6 MASADA AND THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM

Take a cable car ride up to the fortress of Masada, where Jewish zealots held out for three years against King Herod's armies. In Jerusalem, visit the Room of the Last Supper and see the Wailing Wall.(B)

Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem.

#### DAYS 7 - 8 EXPLORING JERUSALEM

Visit Yad Vashem, a memorial for those who perished in the Holocaust. Continue to the Israel Museum and retrace the history of the city. Visit the Shrine of the Book, home to ancient Dead Sea scrolls.

Enjoy a relaxed morning or perhaps visit Bethlehem?

At night, toast your adventures over a hearty Highlight Dinner with wine. (B) (D) (DW)

#### DAY 9 FROM JERUSALEM TO AMMAN

Travel through the Judaean Desert to the border of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Once at your Amman hotel, relax and settle in before meeting your Jordanian Travel Director for drinks and dinner. (B) (DW)

#### Amman Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 10 EXPLORING AMMAN AND JERASH

After breakfast depart for Iraq Al-Amir. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and visit a women's cooperative, working with women and girls from the nearby Wadi Al Seer villages. The association is supported by Insight Vacations through The TreadRight Foundation and provides training and work opportunities for women in the region. Next, journey to Jerash, the most beautifully preserved example of a Greco-Roman city.

Enjoy an al fresco lunch of natural produce and family recipes at Beit Khairat Souf, during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. (B) (L)

#### DAYS 11 - 12 THE RED CITY OF PETRA

Visit Mount Nebo, Madaba and Shobak. Then head south to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra.

Dine with locals at the Ammarin desert camp with a stunning backdrop. (B) (DW) (B) (D)

#### Petra Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 13 WADI RUM WITH THE BEDOUIN

Enjoy a jeep safari deep into the heart of Wadi Rum's majestic desert.

Dine with locals under the stars, and stay in elegant simplicity in a desert camp for the night. Join an astronomer for a magical stargazing experience in the Jordanian desert. (B) (D)

#### Sun City Camp, Wadi Rum.

#### DAY 14 AMMAN

Explore Amman with Insight Choice. Choose to join a guided sightseeing experience, highlighting the city's history, architecture and culture. Alternatively, explore Amman's street art scene on a guided graffiti walking tour.

Join in a lively dinner to celebrate the end of your Jordanian adventures. (B) (DW)

Amman Marriott Hotel.

#### DAY 15 AMMAN TO CAIRO

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cairo. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. (B)

#### Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

#### DAYS 16 - 22 CRUISE THE NILE

Visit Luxor Temple and the Temple of Hathor in Dendera. Venture to Aswan's High Dam and granite quarries to see the enormous unfinished obelisk and explore the Temple of Isis. In Kom Ombo, visit the only temple in Egypt dedicated to two gods.

Enjoy a high tea at the Old Cataract Hotel. (B) (L) (D)

MS Medea or MS Miriam (or similar).

## DAYS 23 - 25 EXPLORE LUXOR AND FLY TO CAIRO

### Visit a local family home and witness the making of authentic Egyptian bread.

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Cairo. Spend the last three days of your adventures exploring the city, including a visit to the Egyptian Museum with your Egyptologist, and step inside a pyramid.

#### Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino.

#### DAY 26 DEPART CAIRO

After breakfast, transfer to Cairo airport. (B)





DAYS 15 - 26 Cairo and Nile Cruise



#### KEY

- Join/Leave Options
   Included Flights
   UNESCO
   Heritage Site
   Central Hotels + Nights
   Scenic Hotels + Nights
   Place Visited
- O Optional Place Visited ⇔ Cruise



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.

**CHOOSE YOUR** 

both classic and small

GROUP SIZE

This trip operates

group departures.

You can also book

your own private

12 travellers.

group with as few as

| 2023                        | 2024                        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 02, 09, 16,    | <b>APR  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| 23, 30                      | <b>MAY  </b> 05, 12, 19, 26 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 09, 16,    |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25 | 23, 30                      |
| <b>JUL</b> 02,09,16,23,30   | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 06, 13, 20, 27 | <b>AUG  </b> 04, 11, 18, 25 |
| SEP   03, 10, 17, 24        | SEP   01, 08, 15, 22,       |
| <b>OCT  </b> 01, 08, 15     | 29                          |
|                             | <b>OCT  </b> 06, 13         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/gloriesgreece

Combine this trip with a seven-night cruise. Extend your trip to explore Mykonos and Santorini with the **Treasures** of Greece & the Islands.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: DYNAMIC

7 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 11 MEALS 11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Mycenae:** Discover ancestral pottery methods at an artist's studio that preserves important skills and ancient traditions.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Olympia:** Chef Farije shares with you her passion for local ingredients and high quality products. Learn how to make tzatziki and other regional dishes during a fun and immersive cooking demonstration.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Taste unique flavours and savour Greek regional specialties over a colourful Highlight Dinner.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit the Acropolis • Meteora monastery • The Sacred Way and Temple of Apollo in Delphi.

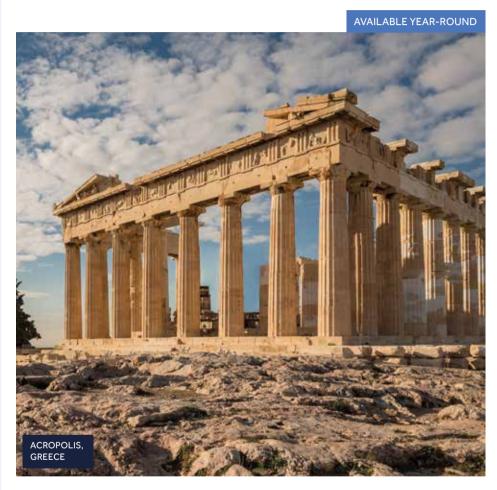
City tours of Athens, Meteora, Delphi and Mycenae, all with Local Experts.

See Arch of Hadrian and Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens • Leonidas Monument in Thermopylae • Delphi • Temple of Zeus and athlete's gymnasium in Olympia • Lion Gate and royal beehive-tombs of Mycenae • Nafplio.

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# GLORIES OF GREECE

"Guests love meeting Yorgos, a friend of mine, who cultivates oranges and mandarins in the area of Pyrgos in Peloponnese. During harvest time, he treats you to fresh aromatic citrus fruits." – Lisa, Travel Director





METEORA



NAFPLIO

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ATHENS

An Insight host will meet you at the airport and take you to the hotel, where there is time to settle in and relax.

At 19:00, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and get to know your fellow travellers over a delightful evening of dinner and wine. (DW)

Divani Caravel Hotel/Crowne Plaza Athens City Centre, Athens.

#### DAY 2 ATHENS, CITY OF GODS

Today your mythical Grecian discovery encapsulates the intriguing history of ancient Greece. Begin with an exploration revealing the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Arch of Hadrian. Next, your Local Expert takes you to the Acropolis, one of the most important ancient sites in the Western world. Crowning the top is the Parthenon, visible from almost everywhere in the city. See the Temple of Athena Nike, also known as the Temple of the Wingless Victory, and the six stone-carved caryatids that make up the Porch of the Maidens on the Erechtheion.

Continue to Thermopylae, famous as the mountain pass where King Leonidas led his Spartan army, along with fellow Greek soldiers, into battle against the Persians in 480 B.C.

See the memorial dedicated to Leonidas and his courageous Spartans.

Then on to your hotel in Kalambaka for a delicious dinner from a fresh, seasonal menu. (B) (DW)

Divani Meteora Hotel/Grand Meteora, Kalambaka.

#### DAY 3 THE PINNACLES OF METEORA

Relaxed Start. With your Local Expert, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora, meaning 'in the air.' The massive pinnacles of smooth rock are ancient, yet could also be the setting for a science fiction tale. Visit one of the monasteries, that adds to the strange and beautiful landscape and enjoy stunning views over the Peneios Valley. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Why not explore with a relaxed walk on the nature trails? Alternatively, you may wish to visit the Natural History Museum. (B)

# **DAY 4** THE SACRED WAY AND ONTO OLYMPIA

Travel south, stopping at the foothills of Mount Parnassus.

Ascend the Sacred Way of Delphi with your Local Expert. Pass the Parian marble Treasury of the Athenians and Polygonal Wall, with its interlocking stones still perfectly intact after thousands of years. You'll approach the Temple of Apollo, where for 14 centuries the mysterious Oracle of Delphi breathed her enigmatic 'words,' rumoured to have successfully predicted events related to the Argonauts expedition and the Trojan War. Your travels continue to Olympia, where dinner is served in your hotel. (B) (DW)

#### Amalia Hotel Olympia/Olympion Asty.

#### DAY 5 ANCIENT OLYMPIA

It's all in the name. Ancient Olympia is the site where the Ancient Olympic Games began in 776 B.C., in dedication to Zeus.

See the ruined Temple of Zeus that was built to honor the ruler of the gods. Continue your exploration through time to the athletes gymnasium and the Ancient Stadium of Olympia with its characteristic arch. The start and finish points for the sprint track are still marked by stones and there is time to capture your own memory, with a photo at the starting line.

In the evening, join a local chef for an entertaining cooking demonstration, showcasing classic Greek cuisine. Experience authentic Greek flavours, as you savour dishes prepared for your Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 6 MYCENAE AND NAFPLIO

Today you leave the town of Olympia and begin your journey back to the Greek capital. Stop for a visit at the ruined city of Mycenae with a Local Expert. Walk through the Lion Gate, visit the royal beehive-tombs and see the giant Cyclopean stones, used to build the city walls. Later, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you meet the artisans at a family-run pottery studio and view beautiful works of art. Travel to the elegant town of Nafplio known for its beautiful architecture, colourful shops and vibrant cafes. Your journey continues, following the shores of the Saronic Gulf to pass the Corinth Canal, dividing the Peloponnese and mainland Greece, before arriving in Athens.

In the evening enjoy a hearty Celebration Dinner in true Greek style, paired with fine wine and good company. (B) (DW)

Divani Caravel Hotel/Crowne Plaza Athens City Centre, Athens.

#### **DAY 7** DEPART ATHENS

**Relaxed Start.** This morning after breakfast, your Grecian odyssey comes to an end. Take a complimentary transfer to Athens Airport for your onward journey. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Visit the towering rocks of Meteora with your Local Expert. (Photo by @Insighttracy, Day 3, Meteora)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Walk The Sacred Way and see the Temple of Pronea with your Local Expert. (Photo by @ErinTDGreece, Day 4, Delphi)





# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS**

By our guests and Travel Directors



(C) @TRAVELING\_INSIGHTTIM



(a) WENDY\_GILES ROME, ITALY



O @CHANTEL\_INSIGHT BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



O @DANI\_TRAVELS\_THE\_ WORLD FLORENCE, ITALY



(a) alansportscamman STANSERHORN, SWITZERLAND



(a)JLE.PSSPRT HEIDELBERG, GERMANY



(a) ALANSPORTSCAMMAN ROME, ITALY



(a) SANIESIDEUHP MONACO, FRANCE



# European Discoveries



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8 8 888 FML 848 8

European Discovery 16 DAYS | PAGE 192

European Grandeur 26 DAYS | PAGE 194

Romantic European 18 DAYS | PAGE 196

European Dream 11 DAYS | Available online

Flavours of Europe 9 DAYS | Available online

European Rhapsody 10 DAYS | Available online

European Affair & Chelsea Flower Show 10 DAYS | Available online



European Flair 11 DAYS | Available online Splendid Europe 14 DAYS | Available online

An Art Lover's Taste of Europe 15 DAYS | Available online

Mediterranean

Journey 17 DAYS | Available online

Chelsea Flower Show & Springtime Alps 18 DAYS | Available online

**INSIGHT VACATIONS** 187

| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 18     | <b>APR  </b> 16, 30 |
| MAY  02, 16, 30     | <b>MAY  </b> 14,28  |
| <b>JUN  </b> 13, 27 | <b>JUN  </b> 11, 25 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 11, 25 | <b>JUL  </b> 09, 23 |
| AUG   08, 22        | AUG   06, 20        |
| <b>SEP  </b> 05, 19 | <b>SEP  </b> 03, 17 |
| <b>OCT  </b> 03, 31 | <b>ОСТ  </b> 01, 29 |
| DEC 26              | <b>DEC</b> 24       |
|                     |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/roadtorome

℮ DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

12 DAYS 7 COUNTRIES 16 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Venice: Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Mount Stanserhorn:** Choose to embark on a walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger.

Choose between two experiences in Paris.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in the heart of Paris • Choice of Dine-Around options in Lucerne • Dinner at a local restaurant in Venice • Tuscan lunch at Il Poggio • Celebration Dinner with musicians in Rome.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

188

Travel on the high-speed Eurostar train • Private boat in Venice. City tours of Pisa and Florence, both with Local Experts.

# **ROAD TO ROME**

"Our Local Experts in Rome truly bring this ancient city and the Vatican to life. The fast-tracked entry to the Vatican Museums allows you to soak up the history and beauty, without the crowds." – **Gigi, Travel Director** 





BRAMANTE STAIRCASE, VATICAN CITY



CHAPEL BRIDGE, LUCERNE

#### DAY 1 LONDON TO PARIS BY EUROSTAR

Meet your Travel Director at 07:30 and after a warm welcome, transfer to London's St. Pancras Station to board the high-speed Eurostar. Alternatively, join in Paris and meet your Travel Director at 17:00. During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame Cathedral, the facades of the Louvre and the banks of the River Seine with its many romantic bridges.

#### Later, join your Travel Director at a local brasserie in the heart of Paris for a fabulous Welcome Dinner. (DW)

#### Crowne Plaza Paris - Republique.

#### DAY 2 PARIS, THE 'CITY OF LIGHT'

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies. (B)

#### DAY 3 BURGUNDY AND LUCERNE

Travel through the rural French countryside of Burgundy, famous for its vineyards and wine. Later, arrive in glorious lakeside Lucerne.

A range of enticing options are available for your Dine-Around Evening. Choose from a selection of hand-picked local restaurants. (B) (DW)

Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

12 travellers.

#### DAY 4 LUCERNE & MOUNT STANSERHORN

Journey by funicular railway and open-top cable car to the summit of the stunning Mount Stanserhorn. Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see marmots and other native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. Upon return to Lucerne, see the Lion Monument, before strolling across the Chapel Bridge to the ornate Jesuit Church. (B)

#### DAY 5 LUCERNE TO INNSBRUCK

Relaxed Start. Start the day with a journey to the heart of the Alps to visit the Principality of Liechtenstein. See its tiny capital, Vaduz. Continue through the Arlberg Tunnel to mountainringed Innsbruck. Your Travel Director will show you the impressive Imperial Palace and the Golden Roof. (B)

#### AC Hotel Innsbruck.

#### DAY 6 THE DOLOMITES TO VENICE

Leave Innsbruck to travel across the impressive Europa Bridge and through the Dolomites.

Cross into Italy and stop at a local family winery in Veneto to discover the art of prosecco production. Savour a tasting of these luxurious sparkling wines and discover how to make the perfect Bellini. Continue to the romantic city of Venice, Queen of the Adriatic.

Long after the day-trippers have returned to their mainland hotels, enjoy the quiet atmosphere of the islands with dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

Hotel Continental Venice.

#### DAY 7 THE MAGIC OF 'LA SERENISSIMA'

**Relaxed Start.** See the immense Campanile and Doge's Palace on St. Mark's Square, connected to the ancient prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre. (B)

#### DAY 8 TUSCANY, PISA AND FLORENCE

Visit II Poggio organic farm for a guided walk and learn about organic food and wine production.

On the veranda, take in beautiful views of the rolling Tuscan hills, as you taste the farm's wines and freshly produced olive oil. Enjoy an authentic Italian meal prepared with locally sourced ingredients. Explore the nearby town of Pisa with a Local Expert and see the Leaning Tower. (B) (LW)

Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence.

#### **DAY 9** FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING

**Relaxed Start.** Walk with your Local Expert to the marble-clad cathedral and baptistery to see the Gates of Paradise. Visit Piazza della Signoria, and the area around Santa Croce Basilica. (B)

## DAY 10 CHIANTI COUNTRY TO ASSISI AND ONTO ROME

Journey through the vineyards of the Chianti region passing Lake Trasimeno, and continue up the foothills of the Apennine Mountains to reach delightful Assisi, a stone-built town spilling over the steep hillside.

With a Local Expert, visit the tomb of St. Francis and see the beautiful frescoes by Giotto in the great basilica.

Journey along the valley of the River Tiber towards the Eternal City of Rome. (B)

Kolbe Hotel Rome.

#### DAY 11 PAPAL AND IMPERIAL ROME

To avoid the crowds and maximise your time, Insight has arranged special priority access to the Vatican Museums. Your Local Expert will guide you through the halls of artwork and take you behind the scenes to view the Bramante Staircase, a marvel of Renaissance architecture normally closed to the public. Visit the Sistine Chapel to admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling and continue to St. Peter's Basilica.

Cross the River Tiber to see the Colosseum and overlook Circus Maximus.

Enjoy an elegant four-course Celebration Dinner with local wine at a Roman restaurant, with a private performance of some of Italy's best-loved operas. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

Bid farewell to the glories of Italy. Departure transfers arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 07:00 and 09:30. (B)







INSIGHT CHOICE Take a walk along beautiful scenic pathways on Mount Stanserhorn. (Photo by @alansportscamman, Day 5, Lucerne)



| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 14, 28 | <b>APR  </b> 21,28  |
| <b>JUN  </b> 11, 25 | <b>MAY  </b> 12, 26 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 09, 30 | <b>JUN  </b> 09, 23 |
| AUG   13, 27        | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 28 |
| <b>SEP</b> 10       | AUG   11, 25        |
| <b>OCT  </b> 01, 29 | SEP   08            |
| NOV 05              |                     |
| <b>DEC  </b> 16, 30 |                     |
|                     |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/highlightseurope

Winter departures have an alternative itinerary.

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

14 DAYS 8 COUNTRIES 19 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Paris:** Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats.

Choose between two experiences on Mount Stanserhorn.

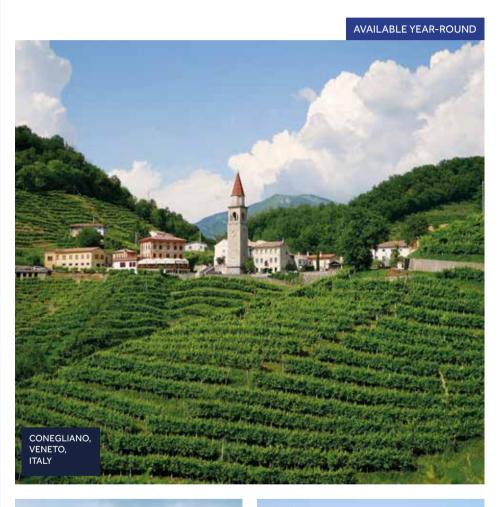
#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Amsterdam • Dine-at-Home in Rome • Restaurant Dinner in Venice • Choice of Dine-Around options in Baveno • Restaurant Dinner in Florence • Celebration Dinner in the heart of Paris.

Taste prosecco in Conegliano.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF EUROPE

"Guests particularly love meeting Massimo and his family, as we taste excellent prosecco and local snacks at his vineyard in the breathtaking hills around Conegliano." – **Philip, Travel Director** 





AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS



HEIDELBERG CASTLE, GERMANY

## DAY 1 DEPART LONDON BY EUROSTAR AND ONTO AMSTERDAM

At 07:00, meet your Travel Director and transfer to London's St. Pancras Station to board the high-speed Eurostar. Alternatively, join your Travel Director at 17:00 for your Welcome Reception in Amsterdam.

Embark on a canal cruise to explore the heart of the city, before enjoying dinner and wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Hilton Amsterdam.

#### DAY 2 THE RHINE VALLEY AND HEIDELBERG

Take a scenic drive through the Rhine Valley to see quaint villages, hilltop castles and hear the legend of the Loreley Rock.

Follow the Neckar River to Heidelberg and visit Heidelberg Castle with a Local Expert. (B)

Marriott Hotel Heidelberg.

#### DAY 3 MOUNTAIN-RINGED INNSBRUCK

Stop beneath the royal castles of Hohenschwangau and King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein, rumoured to have inspired Walt Disney's iconic castle. In Innsbruck, tour the architectural jewels of the Old Town, seeing the Imperial Palace and the Golden Roof. (B)

#### AC Hotel Innsbruck.

#### DAY 4 ACROSS THE DOLOMITES TO VENICE

Relaxed Start. Cross into Italy and stop at a local family winery in Veneto to discover the art of prosecco production. Savour a tasting of these luxurious sparkling wines and discover how to make the perfect Bellini.

Continue to the romantic city of Venice. (B) (DW)

Hotel Indigo Venice - Sant'Elena.

#### DAY 5 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Relaxed Start. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre. Take a private cruise to St. Mark's Square and admire the richly decorated Basilica. (B)

#### DAY 6 THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Pass through Tuscany and Umbria, to reach the Eternal City of Rome.

You're invited into the home of a Roman local to experience Italian hospitality at its best, as you enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal with your host. (B) (DW)

#### Golden Tulip Rome Piram.

#### DAY 7 PAPAL AND IMPERIAL ROME

Join a Local Expert for a private tour of the Vatican Museums and the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. Your priority visit includes fast-track entry and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase. Then explore St. Peter's Basilica. Cross the River Tiber to see the Colosseum and enjoy the afternoon at your leisure. (B)

#### DAY 8 THE CHIANTI HILLS TO FLORENCE

On arrival in Florence, a Local Expert will accompany you to the Duomo. Continue to Piazza della Signoria.

In your free time, perhaps visit the Accademia Gallery with an art historian and see Michelangelo's David?

Savour an authentic meal at a local trattoria in the heart of Florence. (B) (DW)

NH Firenze, Florence.

#### **DAY 9** LAKE MAGGIORE

**Relaxed Start.** Journey to the beautiful Italian Lake District.

For your Dine-Around Evening, enjoy your preferred dining experience from a selection of hand-picked local restaurants. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

#### DAY 10 THE ALPS AND ONTO LUCERNE

**Relaxed Start.** Cross the Swiss border before embarking on a scenic journey to the summit of the stunning Mount Stanserhorn. Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Take a walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see marmots and other native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. (B)

#### Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

#### DAY 11 LAKESIDE LUCERNE

**Relaxed Start.** View the emotive Lion Monument, before strolling across the Chapel Bridge. (B)

#### DAY 12 SIGHTS AND DELIGHTS OF PARIS

Journey through the rural French country side of Alsace and Burgundy regions, famous for its vineyards and wines, to arrive in the vibrant City of Light.

During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, facades of the Louvre and banks of the Seine, with its many romantic bridges. See the Place de la Concorde, Champs Élysées and Arc de Triomphe. (B)

#### Crowne Plaza Paris - Republique.

## DAY 13 THE FOOD AND FLAVOURS OF PARIS

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies.

Enjoy a Celebration Dinner at the historic restaurant La Coupole. Delight in French cuisine and delicious wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 AU REVOIR PARIS

Transfers arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 and 11:00. Alternatively, choose to continue to London via Gare du Nord, with the Return Eurostar option. (B)





**TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** spend time in the beautiful Italian lake district. (*Photo by* @belindainitaly, Day 10, Lake Maggiore)



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



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| 2023                  | 2024                |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 15, 29   | <b>APR  </b> 13, 27 |
| <b>MAY  </b> 13, 27   | MAY   11, 25        |
| <b>JUN  </b> 10, 24   | <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 08, 22   | <b>JUL  </b> 06, 20 |
| <b>AUG  </b> 05, 19   | AUG   03, 17, 31    |
| <b>SEP</b> 02, 16, 30 | <b>SEP  </b> 14, 28 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/discovery

This tour is a combination of **European Flair** and **Flavours of Europe**.

# B DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED ACTIVITY LEVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL ACTIVITY ACTIVIT

16 DAYS 9 COUNTRIES 22 MEALS 20 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

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#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famous Bramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Paris:** Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies.

Choose between two experiences in Prague and on Mount Stanserhorn.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Amsterdam • Farm-to-Table dining in Salzburg • Sea-to-Table lunch in Cinque Terre • Choice of Dine-Around options in Lucerne • Celebration Dinner in Paris.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel by funicular railway and cable car on Mount Stanserhorn • Cruise the canals of Amsterdam • Private boat in Venice.

Visit Würzburg Residence with a Local Expert.

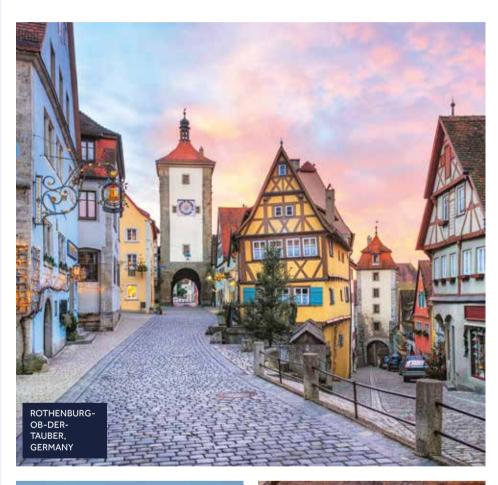
City tours of Prague, Salzburg, Rome, Florence and Cinque Terre, all with Local Experts.

See Amsterdam • Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber • Prague • Salzburg • St. Mark's Square and Doge's Palace in Venice • Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona in Rome • Duomo and Piazza della Signoria in Florence • Lucerne • Paris.

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# EUROPEAN DISCOVERY

"An afternoon spent with our Local Expert in Salzburg always leaves guests with lasting memories. Her charm and effervesence brings to life the city of Mozart in the most fun and meaningful way." **– Gary, Travel Director** 





CINQUE TERRE, ITALY



PRAGUE

# DAY 1 DEPART LONDON BY EUROSTAR AND ONTO AMSTERDAM

At 07:00, meet your Travel Director and transfer to London's St. Pancras Station to board the high-speed Eurostar. Alternatively, join your Travel Director at 17:00 for your Welcome Reception in Amsterdam.

Embark on a canal cruise to explore the heart of the city, before enjoying dinner and wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Hilton Amsterdam.

#### DAY 2 LEGENDS ALONG THE RHINE

Continue on to Würzburg. With a Local Expert, visit the imposing Würzburg Residenz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B) (DW)

Maritim Hotel Würzburg.

#### DAY 3 ROTHENBURG AND GOLDEN PRAGUE

**Relaxed Start.** In the morning, venture to Rothenburg-ob-der -Tauber, one of Germany's jewels and the most well-preserved town on the Romantic Road. Continue onto Prague. (B)

#### NH Collection Prague City.

#### DAY 4 PRAGUE, CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES

Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert through the Jewish Quarter and taste Trdelník, a traditional Czech pastry. (B)

#### DAY 5 SALZBURG, CITY OF MOZART

**Relaxed Start.** Continue to Salzburg. A Local Expert shows you the formal gardens of Mirabell Palace, Residence Square and Mozart's birthplace.

In the evening, experience authentic Farm-to-Table dining at a local organic farm and enjoy the flavours of homemade dishes. (B) (DW)

#### ARCOTEL Castellani, Salzburg.

**KEY** 

Heritage Site

Central

1)Scenic

Train

🛱 Cruise

∛ Join/Leave Options

Hotels + Nights

Hotels + Nights

Place Visited

Trip Options

**GROUP SIZE** 

This trip operates

You can also book

your own private

group with as few as 12 travellers.

**CHOOSE YOUR** 

both classic and small group departures.

#### DAY 6 THE TAUERN MOUNTAINS TO VENICE

**Relaxed Start.** Continue to Venice, where your hotel is perfectly located in one of the quietest peaceful and authentic Venetian districts. (B)

#### Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio, Venice.

#### DAY 7 THE MAGIC OF 'LA SERENISSIMA'

**Relaxed Start.** See the immense Campanile and Doge's Palace on St. Mark's Square, connected to the ancient prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre. (B)

#### DAY 8 ONTO THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Your journey continues to the Eternal City of Rome. (B) (DW)

Hotel Mediterraneo, Rome.

#### DAY 9 ROME WITH THE LOCALS

**Relaxed Start.** Your morning walking tour with a Local Expert will show you what Rome is all about. Toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain and see the Pantheon.(B)

#### DAY 10 The Vatican and Florence

With your Local Expert, visit the Vatican Museums. Insight provides special priority entry to avoid the crowds and behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, normally off-limits to the public. Inside the Sistine Chapel, admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling before visiting St. Peter's Basilica.

In Florence, a Local Expert will accompany you to the Duomo, before continuing to Piazza della Signoria.(B)

#### Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence.

#### DAY 11 THE CINQUE TERRE

With a Local Expert, visit the stunning coastline of the world-famous Cinque Terre. Approach one of the fishing villages by boat (weather permitting). *Savour authentic Italian cuisine with a delicious a* 

Sea-to-Table lunch at Ristorante Da Ely. (B) (LW)

#### Grand Hotel Bristol Resort & Spa, Rapallo.

#### DAY 12 ACROSS THE ALPS TO LUCERNE

Pass the Italian Lake District en route to scenic Lake Lucerne. (B)

Renaissance Lucerne Hotel.

#### DAY 13 LUCERNE'S LAKES AND MOUNTAINS

Journey by funicular railway and open-top cable car to the summit of Mount Stanserhorn. Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to explore scenic pathways, with a chance to see native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora.

Enjoy a fine selection of restaurants to choose from for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 14 SIGHTS AND DELIGHTS OF PARIS

Journey through storybook scenery of forests and imposing mountain ranges. Continue through the rural French countryside of Alsace, famous for its vineyards and wine, to arrive in the vibrant City of Light. During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, facades of the Louvre and banks of the Seine, with its many romantic bridges. See the Place de la Concorde, Champs Élysées and Arc de Triomphe. (B)

#### Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

## DAY 15 THE FOOD AND FLAVOURS OF PARIS

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies.

Indulge in refined French cuisine during your Celebration Dinner at the iconic restaurant, La Coupole. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 16 AU REVOIR PARIS

Transfers arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 and 11:00. Alternatively, you may depart for London via Gare du Nord with the return Eurostar option. (B)

THE NETHERLANDS 台台 ENGLAND AMSTERDAM GERMANY ₩ÜRZBURĞ CZECH REPUBLIC (Day 2) 1 Rothenburg FRANCE AUSTRIA SWITZERLAND LUCERNE (Days 12 & 13) Lake Wörthersee Mt Þ 2 ITALY (Days 6 & 7) 

品田

(Day 10

ROME & THE VATICAN CITY





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Explore Salzburg with a Local Expert. (Photo by @insight\_megachandler, Day 6, Salzburg)



| 2023                    | 2024                |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| APR 22                  | APR 20              |
| MAY 06, 20              | <b>MAY  </b> 04, 18 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 03, 17     | <b>JUN  </b> 01, 15 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 01, 15, 29 | <b>JUL  </b> 13, 27 |
| AUG   12, 26            | AUG   10, 24        |
| SEP   09, 30            | SEP   07, 28        |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/grandeur

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This trip is a combination of **Mediterranean** Journey and Splendid Europe.

26 DAYS 11 COUNTRIES 32 MEALS 21 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.4 GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Madrid:** Join the pillars of the local community on a neighbourhood walking tour and learn the history of the women's movement in Spain firsthand.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Vatican City: Gain priority access into the Vatican Museums and admire the famousBramante Staircase. Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel and view the splendid dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Paris**: Choose to explore the aristocratic Marais district with your Local Expert, including a visit to beautiful Sully's Mansion garden. Alternatively join a Local Expert who is an avid foodie, to explore the local market and sample local treats and delicacies.

Choose between two experiences on Mount Stanserhorn.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in the heart of Paris • Dine with locals in San Sebastian • Farm-to-Table dining in Provence • Sip a cocktail before dinner in Venice • Choice of Dine-Around options in Lucerne • Celebration Dinner in Amsterdam. Taste olive oil in Provence.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

194

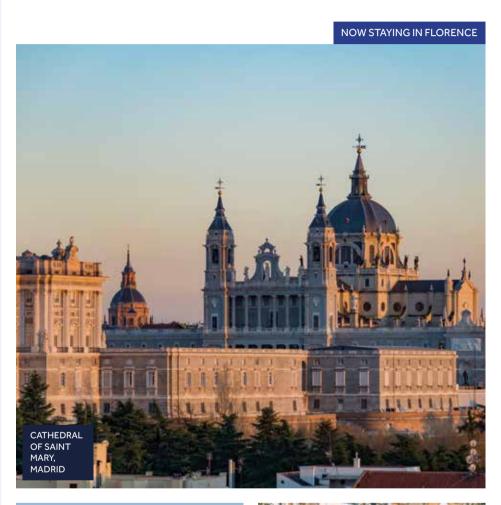
Travel on the high-speed Eurostar train • Travel by private boat in Venice • Cruise the canals of Amsterdam.

Visit Chenonceau Castle • Monaco Cathedral.

City tours of Bordeaux, Madrid, Barcelona, Florence, Ljubljana, Vienna and Salzburg, all with Local Experts.

# EUROPEAN GRANDEUR

"Join us to explore the great breadth of Europe and understand its incredible diversity. Every day is different than the day before – this is truly a trip of a lifetime!" – Gary, Travel Director





FLORENCE, ITALY



CAFE CENTRAL, VIENNA

#### DAY 1 LONDON TO PARIS BY EUROSTAR

Meet your Travel Director at 07:30 and transfer to London's St. Pancras Station to board the high-speed Eurostar.

Alternatively, join in Paris and meet your Travel Director at 17:00 for a fabulous Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Crowne Plaza Paris - Republique.

#### DAY 2 PARIS, THE CITY OF LIGHT

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose between exploring aristocratic Marais district with your Local Expert, including a visit to beautiful Sully's Mansion garden. Alternatively, join a Local Expert who is an avid foodie, to explore the local market.

#### DAY 3 ONTO BORDEAUX

Take a scenic drive along the Loire Valley. Visit the majestic Chenonceau Castle. Continue to bustling Bordeaux. (B)

#### Pullman Bordeaux Lac, Bordeaux.

#### DAY 4 BORDEAUX AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

Join a Local Expert for a guided tour of Bordeaux.

Journey to San Sebastián, where you visit a variety of pintxos bars to mingle and dine with locals. (B) (DW)

#### Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

#### DAYS 5 - 6 MADRID

Pass Burgos on the way to Madrid. Join your Local Expert for a sightseeing tour of Madrid's Old Town as well as, along the elegant Paseo de la Castellana and past the fountain in the Plaza de Cibeles. Explore Madrid with Insight Choice. Visit the Reina Sofia Museum with an art historian to see Picasso's Guernica. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience on a neighbourhood walking tour to learn about the history of women's movements in Spain.

#### Hotel Riu Plaza España, Madrid.

#### DAYS 7 - 8 BARCELONA, CITY OF GAUDI

Continue to the vibrant port of Barcelona. Join your Local Expert to view the Gothic Quarter. (B) (B)

#### DAY 9 AVIGNON, THE CITY OF POPES

Journey to Avignon.

Learn about olive oil and enjoy a tasting, before indulging in a Farm-to-Table dinner. (B) (DW)

Cloître Saint-Louis, Avignon.

#### DAY 10 ON THE SHORES OF NICE

Journey along the French Riviera to Nice. (B)

Hotel West End, Nice.

## DAYS 11 - 12 MONACO, PISA AND FLORENCE

Visit the cathedral in Monaco. Later, join your Local Expert to see the incredible Leaning Tower of Pisa. In Florence, walk with your Local Expert to the baptistery, Piazza della Signoria and around Santa Croce Basilica.

#### DAYS 13 - 15 THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME

Arrive at the Eternal City of Rome.

### On your first evening, enjoy a traditional meal at a local restaurant.

The following day, enjoy Insight's special fasttracked entry into the Vatican Museums with behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, normally off-limits to the public. In the Sistine Chapel, admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling. Enjoy a final day at leisure to enjoy Rome at your own pace. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Pompeii?

#### Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome.

#### DAYS 16 - 17 THE MAGIC OF LA SERENISSIMA

Arrive at the glorious city of Venice by water taxi.

Savour a cocktail at sunset before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

On your second full day in Venice, admire the

**KEY** ∛ Join/Leave Options ₩UNESCO Heritage Site 1 Central GERMANY Hotels + Nights Rhine Castle 1) Scenic BELGIUM Hotels + Nights KÖNIGSWINTER (Day 24) 俞 1 AUSTRIA 🏦 Place Visited PARIS (Days 1 & 2 2 FRANCE 2 VIENNA **O**Optional Place INNSBRUCK Â . Visited 1 Aribo LUCERNE Train 2 & 23) SLOVENIA 1 LJUBLJANA H Mt Stanser 🛱 Cruise SWITZERLAND Trip Options 命品 2 ITALY 俞 VENICE FLORENCE SAN SEBASTIAN (1)**CHOOSE YOUR** T NICE **GROUP SIZE** (Day 10) 3 This trip operates fî SPAIN both classic and small ROME & THE VATICAN CITY 俞 2 aroup departures. BARCELONA (Days 13, 14 & 15) 2 (Days 7 & 8 You can also book MADRID vour own private group with as few as 12 travellers.

Doge's Palace on St. Mark's Square and the Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre.

Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio, Venice.

DAY 18 VENICE TO ELEGANT LJUBLJANA Relaxed Start. In Ljubljana, a Local Expert shows you the highlights of the city. (B)

Hotel Lev Ljubljana.

# DAYS 19 - 20 VIENNA AND THE HASBURGS

Pass Maribor and Graz on the way to Vienna. Join your Local Expert for a walk through Innere Stadt. Explore Vienna with Insight Choice. Choose to visit a traditional Viennese café to enjoy local specialities. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at a Viennese Waltz workshop designed to support the visually impaired community.

#### Hilton Vienna Park.

#### DAY 21 SALZBURG AND ONTO INNSBRUCK

In Salzburg, join a Local Expert for a visit to the formal gardens of Mirabell Palace. (B)

AC Hotel Innsbruck.

#### DAYS 22 - 23 LIECHTENSTEIN, LUCERNE AND MOUNT STANSERHORN

Journey to the Principality of Liechtenstein. Visit Lucerne's proud Lion Monument. Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to walk along beautiful scenic pathways. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger.

## Enjoy a fine selection of restaurants to choose from for your Dine-Around Evening.

Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

#### DAY 24 LEGENDS ALONG THE RHINE

Relax with a scenic drive in the Rhine Valley. (B) (DW) Maritim Hotel Königswinter.

#### DAY 25 THE CANALS OF AMSTERDAM

Join a private visit of a Rhineland castle. In Amsterdam, embark on a canal cruise.

Toast to your adventure during a Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam.

## DAY 26 DEPART AMSTERDAM OR RETURN LONDON OPTION

Transfers arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at 08:00 and 10:00 or you can return to London with the Eurostar option. (B)



| 2024                    |
|-------------------------|
| <b>APR  </b> 21         |
| <b>MAY  </b> 05,19      |
| <b>JUN  </b> 02, 16, 30 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 14, 28     |
| AUG   11, 25            |
| SEP 08, 22              |
| <b>DEC</b> 21           |
|                         |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/romanticeuropean

This tour is a combination of **European** *Rhapsody* and *European Dream*.

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

18 DAYS 10 COUNTRIES 25 MEALS 23 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoe 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Venice:** Witness the ancient skill of glassblowing, now practised by precious few masters. Watch artisans create delicate pieces using rare traditional practices, and support the preservation of their art.

#### INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

Vienna: Be pampered by locals with traditional coffee and cake. An experience like no other, this cosy café provides companionship, and promotes well-being and support for the community, in addition to crafting delicious treats.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Prague:** Choose to join a Local Expert to explore the courtyards of the Prague Castle and to visit the imposing St Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, stroll through the Jewish Quarter with your Local Expert to hear how the Jewish community has shaped the history of Prague, and taste Trdelník, a traditional Czech pastry.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Amsterdam • Scenic Dinner Cruise in Budapest • Dinner and cocktail in Venice • Light lunch and wine tasting at Machiavelli's villa • Choice of Dine-Around options in Lucerne • Celebration Dinner at La Coupole in Paris.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

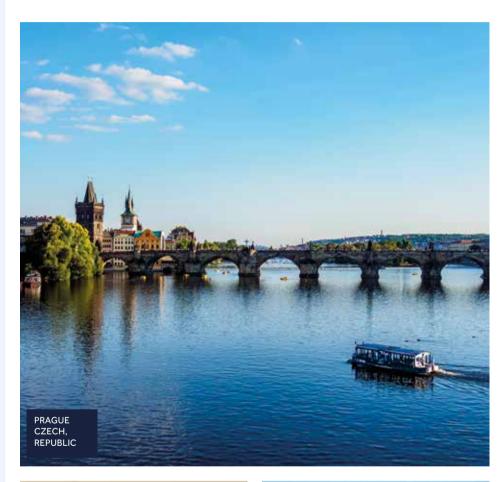
Travel on the high-speed Eurostar train • Cruise the canals of Amsterdam • Travel by private boat in Venice.

Visit Würzburg Residenz with a Local Expert • Fisherman's Bastion with a Local Expert.

City tours of Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Florence, all with Local Experts.

# ROMANTIC EUROPEAN

"This trip is a wonderful combination of the vibrant Western and the picturesque Eastern parts of Europe. We travel to so many countries. You'll hear a range of languages and savour delicious foods." **– Nathalie, Travel Director** 





BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



VILLA MACHIAVELLI, ITALY

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#### DAY 1 LONDON TO AMSTERDAM

At 07:00, meet your Travel Director and transfer to London's St Pancras Station to board the high-speed Eurostar. Alternatively, Join your Travel Director in the evening for your Welcome Reception.

Embark on a canal cruise, to explore the heart of the city, before enjoying dinner and wine at a local restaurant. (DW)

#### Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam.

#### DAY 2 RHINE VALLEY TO WÜRZBURG

Relax with a scenic drive along the Rhine Valley to Würzburg.

On arrival, visit the imposing Würzburg Residenz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a Local Expert. Marvel at intricate decorations and lavish staterooms. (B) (DW)

#### Maritim Hotel Würzburg.

#### DAY 3 ROTHENBURG AND GOLDEN PRAGUE

In the morning venture to Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber, one of Germany's most beautiful towns; the most well-preserved on the Romantic Road. Continue onto Prague. (B)

#### Hotel Royal Prague.

#### DAY 4 PRAGUE, CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES

Explore Prague with Insight Choice. Choose to walk the courtyards of the Castle and visit the imposing St. Vitus Cathedral. Alternatively, join your Local Expert through the Jewish Quarter and taste Trdelník, a traditional Czech pastry. (B)

#### DAY 5 THROUGH BOHEMIA TO BUDAPEST

Start the day with a journey through the beautiful forested countryside of Bohemia. Journey to Hungary, following the River Danube to Budapest.

In the evening, join a Local Expert to enjoy a scenic dinner cruise, whilst looking out over beautiful city views. Budapest boasts one of the most spectacular night time vistas, earning it the nickname 'Pearl of the Danube'. (B) (DW)

#### Hilton Garden Inn, Budapest.

#### DAY 6 THE FLAVOURS OF BUDAPEST

Your orientation takes your along the grand Andrassy Avenue to Heroe's Square. Stroll through the alleys of the Old Town of Buda and admire sweeping views from the Fisherman's Bastion with a Local Expert. Stand atop Gellért Hill before continuing your travels to the imperial capital of Vienna. (B)

#### Hilton Vienna Park.

#### DAY 7 VIENNA AND THE HABSBURGS

In the morning, there is the option to join a private tour of Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace and formal gardens. Get your camera ready for a drive around the famous Ring Road. This grand boulevard, built along the lines of the old city walls, showcases many of the capital's architectural masterpieces, including the Opera House, magnificent Hofburg Imperial Residence and Parliament building. Later, join your Local Expert for a walk through Innere Stadt, the first district and historic core of Vienna.

Sit down for traditional coffee and cake and mingle with locals at a cosy café. (B)

#### DAY 8 LAKE WÖRTHERSEE TO VENICE

Arrive by private boat to your hotel for the night. Enjoy dinner at the magical local restaurant, La Principessa. Then sip a twilight cocktail at the oldest café in the world, Café Florian. An ensemble of talented musicians serenade you as you admire the tranquillity of St. Mark's Square. (B) (DW)

#### Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio, Venice.

#### DAY 9 THE MAGIC OF 'LA SERENISSIMA'

**Relaxed Start.** See the immense Campanile and Doge's Palace on St. Mark's Square, connected to the ancient prisons by the Bridge of Sighs. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you witness the skill of glassblowers on a visit to a traditional arts centre. (B)

#### DAY 10 VILLA MACHIAVELLI AND ROME

Meet your Local Host for a guided tour through the house of the Italian Renaissance diplomat and writer, Nicolo Machiavelli.

Savour a light lunch and a tasting of wines made from the vineyards surrounding the estate. (B) (LW)

Veneto Palace Hotel, Rome.

#### DAY 11 PAPAL AND IMPERIAL ROME

With your Local Expert, visit the Vatican Museums. Insight provides special priority entry to avoid the



crowds and gives you behind-the-scenes access to the Bramante Staircase, normally off-limits to the public. Inside the Sistine Chapel, admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling, before visiting St. Peter's Basilica. (B)

#### DAY 12 UMBRIA AND ONTO FLORENCE

**Relaxed Start.** Meet chef Lorenzo at his family farm in Umbria.

Join an entertaining pasta demonstration and delicious Highlight Lunch accompanied by Orvieto Classico wine. (B) (LW)

#### Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence.

#### **DAY 13** RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

With your Local Expert, view the multi-coloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistery. You also visit Piazza della Signoria and see the area around Santa Croce Basilica. (B)

#### DAY 14 ACROSS THE ALPS TO LUCERNE

Upon arrival in Lucerne, see the town's proud Lion Monument, the covered Chapel Bridge and the baroque Jesuit Church. (B)

#### Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

#### DAY 15 LUCERNE AND MT. STANSERHORN

Embark on a scenic journey to the summit of the stunning Mount Stanserhorn.

Explore Mount Stanserhorn with Insight Choice. Choose to walk along beautiful scenic pathways for a chance to see marmots and other native animals. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora.

At night, you are offered a fine selection of restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 16 SIGHTS AND DELIGHTS OF PARIS

Journey through the rural French country side of Alsace and Burgundy regions, famous for its vineyards and wines, to arrive in the vibrant City of Light. During your time in Paris, see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, facades of the Louvre and banks of the Seine, with its many romantic bridges. See the Place de la Concorde, Champs Élysées and Arc de Triomphe. (B)

#### Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

## DAY 17 THE FOOD AND FLAVOURS OF PARIS

Explore Paris with Insight Choice. Choose to shop in quaint boutiques like a true Parisian with your Local Expert. Alternatively, join an avid foodie to explore small shops and sample local treats and delicacies. Indulge in refined French cuisine during your Celebration Dinner at the iconic restaurant La Coupole. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 18 AU REVOIR PARIS

Transfers arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 and 11:00. Alternatively, you may depart for London via Gare du Nord with the return Eurostar option. (B)



# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our guests and Travel Directors



O AJJLR AGRA, INDIA



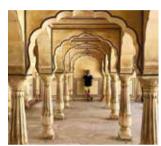
O @CLAIRE.HANNEY



(C) @ASW\_TRAVELS RED FORT, INDIA



JAIPUR, INDIA



(a) ASW\_TRAVELS AMBER FORT, INDIA



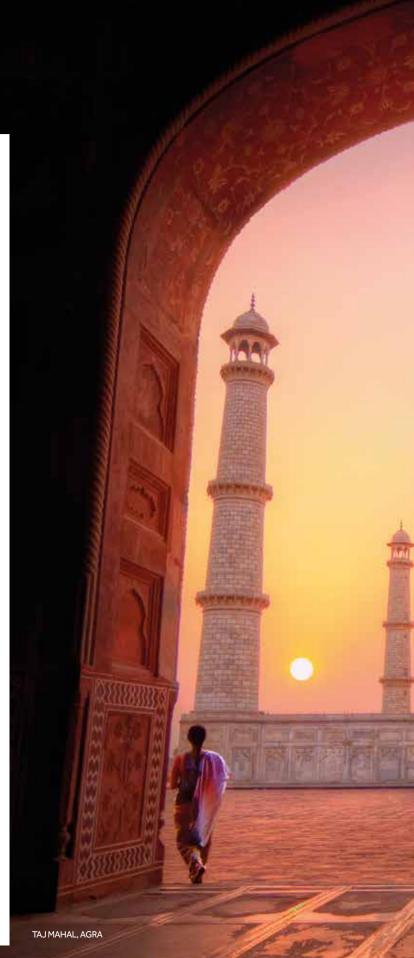
O @DEVENDER.TRAVELSHOW
 JAIPUR, INDIA



O aJJLR TAJ MAHAL, INDIA



(a) ASW\_TRAVELS



# India, Nepal Sri Lanka



Classical India with Nepal 12 DAYS | PAGE 200

Classical Sri Lanka 10 DAYS | PAGE 202

#### **INSIGHT VACATIONS** 199

| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>OCT  </b> 02, 16 | <b>JAN  </b> 08, 22 |
| <b>NOV  </b> 06, 27 | FEB   05, 26        |
| <b>DEC  </b> 11, 21 | <b>MAR  </b> 19     |
|                     | <b>APR</b> 01,08    |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/indianepal

India, Nepal & Sri Lanka **Diwali** and **Holi** celebrations with a local family.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

12 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 20 MEALS 29 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW THIS NEW TRIP

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Agra:** Visit the 'Sheroes Café', a local business run by women survivors of acid attacks.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Kathmandu:** Hear an inspirational talk led by women who summited Mount Everest, the highest point above sea level on Earth.

Visit a pottery workshop in Kathmandu • Join an Aarti chanting ceremony on the Ganges River.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Jaipur: Choose to visit the royal observatory. Alternatively, walk through the city's old lanes. Choose between two experiences in Agra.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

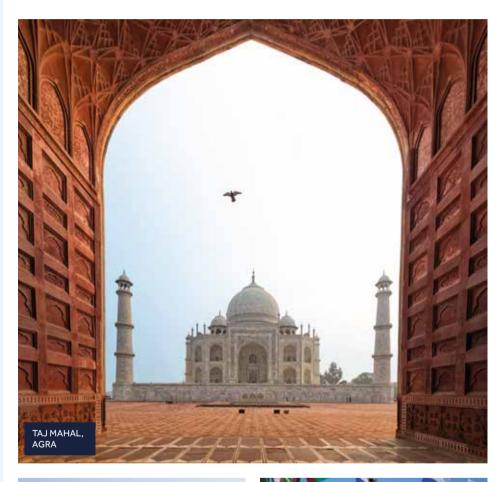
Welcome Dinner in Kathmandu • Lunch at Laxmi Vilas Palace in Bharatpur • Celebration Dinner in Varanasi.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Visit Sacred Swayambhunath and Dubar Square in Kathmandu • Tomb of the Emperor Humayun in Delhi • Flower Market, Spice Market and Amber Fort in Jaipur • Taj Mahal and Agra Fort • Sarnath in Varanasi.

# CLASSICAL INDIA WITH NEPAL

"India is the most alluring and diversified destination to travel, rich in culture and heritage." – Virendra, Travel Director





**RIVER GANGES** 



KATHMANDU

200

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO KATHMANDU

Welcome to Nepal! On arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport you will be greeted by a representative and transferred to your hotel.

At 17:00 meet your Travel Director and venture out in Thamel on a rickshaw ride. Later, head to a local restaurant for a Welcome Reception, drinks and dinner. (DW)

#### Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu.

#### DAY 2 KATHMANDU THE CITY OF BEAUTY

Start with a morning visit to the city of Kathmandu and see the tranquil Swayambhunath temple. Later, stop in Patan, the third largest city in Nepal, for lunch.

In the afternoon, explore the city's stunning architecture with a Local Expert. Highlights include the Golden Temple, Durbar Square and Mul Chowk. Enjoy the flavours of the region in the evening with an indulgent dinner. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 3 KATHMANDU'S SPIRITUAL HISTORY

Delve into Kathmandu's spiritual history with a morning visit to the Pashupatinath Temple on the banks of the Bagmati River and take in the impressive Boudhanath Stupa.

Next you'll head to the city of Bhadgaon, before visiting a local pottery workshop, where a local craftsman will provide a demonstration. In the evening, head to an inspirational talk by a woman who summited the Earth's highest mountain above sea level, Mount Everest. (B)

#### DAY 4 ON TO VIBRANT DELHI

Head to the airport for your flight to Delhi, India. On arrival, you'll be taken to your modern hotel. Later, join your group and Travel Director for a trip to the Akshardham Temple. Also known as Swaminarayan Akshardham, this Hindu temple is a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, learning and harmony. (B)

#### Hyatt Regency Delhi.

∜ Join/Leave Options

#### DAY 5 EXPLORING NEW AND OLD DELHI

Relaxed Start. This morning, head on an exciting sightseeing tour of Old Delhi and New Delhi. Enjoy a rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk bazaar in Old Delhi and drive past the Red Fort, the main residence of the Mughal dynasty until 1856. In the afternoon, visit a Sikh temple and its community kitchen, a place preparing and serving free vegetarian meals to those in need. Later, drive past the President Palace, India Gate and Parliament House, before ending the day with a tour of Humayun's Tomb. (B)

#### DAY 6 THE PINK CITY

**Relaxed Start.** Move on to Jaipur, more affectionately known as the Pink City. Before lunch, enjoy a visit to the Heritage Transport Museum in Haryana, a fascinating showcase of the evolution of transport in India. Later, join your Travel Director for an evening visit

to a flower and spice market.

Dine at the esteemed Dera Amer. Situated in the wilderness close to Jaipur, this outdoor dining experience truly connects you to nature. With elephants roaming free on its land, the venue's primary purpose is to maintain an area of natural beauty. (B) (L) (D)

#### Hotel ITC Rajputana, Jaipur.

#### DAY 7 DELVE INTO JAIPUR

Ascend by jeep to Amber Fort. Built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh, its royal halls mesmerise with their ivory, mirrors, glass and exquisite paintings.

Experience India's spiritual majesty, with a special blessing ceremony.

In the arternoon, take a city tour of Jaipur and see the Hawa Mahal, the Palace of Winds, and visit the City Palace Museum.

Explore Jaipur with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the royal observatory and see Jantar Mantar, featuring the world's largest stone sun dial. Alternatively, join your Local Expert for a walk through the city's old lanes and see artisans working with age-old techniques. (B) (D)

#### DAY 8 JAIPUR TO AGRA

In the morning depart for Agra, home to the spectacular Taj Mahal.

#### Along the way stop for lunch at the beautiful Laxmi Vilas Palace in Bharatpur.

When you arrive in Agra, the evening is yours at leisure. Why not make the most of the amenities at your hotel, Jaypee Palace? (B) (L)

#### Jaypee Palace Hotel, Agra.

#### DAY 9 THE TAJ MAHAL

Wake early for a visit to the Taj Mahal in its best light, and continue on to Agra Fort. Explore Agra with Insight Choice. Choose to join a guided walk through Kachhpura to discover the life of local farmers. Enjoy tea and pakora on a rooftop with views of the Taj Mahal. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and visit the 'Sheroes' Café. This local business supports female victims of acid attacks who refuse to give up and instead fight for a better life.

Catch up with your fellow travellers over dinner at your hotel this evening. (B) (D)

#### DAY 10 ON TO VARANASI

Take a flight to Varanasi, one of the holiest cities in Hinduism.

In the evening, participate in an Aarti on the ghats, where you'll offer prayers to the River Ganges. This spiritual ceremony is performed daily to honour the River Goddess Ganga. (B)

#### Taj Ganges, Varanasi.

#### DAY 11 THE HOLY CITY OF VARANASI

Wake early for a sunrise boat cruise on River Ganges, followed by a visit to an Akhara. Return to your hotel for breakfast before heading on a tour of Varanasi. See the Sarnath, a sacred deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma and the Buddhist Sangha first came into existence through Kondanna's enlightenment.

Later, enjoy a delicious Celebration Dinner at your hotel. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 12 LEAVE VARANASI FOR DELHI

End your trip with a relaxing early morning yoga session at your hotel, before breakfast. Transfer to the airport and head back to Delhi before your onward flights. Please do not schedule flights before 9pm. (B)

Heritage Site Central Hotels + Nights

X Included Flights

⊞unesco

Place Visited

**KEY** 

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.







| 2023                | 2024            |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| AUG   26            | <b>JAN  </b> 13 |
| <b>SEP  </b> 09, 23 | FEB 03, 24      |
| <b>OCT  </b> 07, 28 | <b>MAR  </b> 16 |
| NOV   11            | <b>APR  </b> 06 |
| <b>DEC</b> 02, 23   |                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/clsrilanka

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 14 MEALS 17 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Kandy: Meet members of the Digana community during a tour of Tamarind Gardens and lunch. The project supports the villagers with access to water, food, and creates a sustainable future for the families.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Kandy:** Visit Rahju's Contemporary Art Gallery, enjoy a private viewing of his magnificent paintings and discuss his unique perspectives on life over a cup of tea.

Visit Colombo with a photographer and wildlife enthusiast • Ritigala Jungle with a Buddhist.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Sigiriya: Climb Sigiriya Rock and admire breathtaking views over the lakes and villages below. Or visit the beautifully landscaped Sigiryia's Royal Gardens, boasting ancient water features, terraced gardens and natural boulders. Choose between two experiences in

Anuradhapura.

#### AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Colombo • Celebration Dinner in Nuwara Eliya. Sample some of the freshest tea possible during a Tea Plantation visit in Nuwara Eliya.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Travel through Colombo streets in a tuk-tuk • Hike in World's End.

Visit Wilpattu National Park • Colombo City Tour with Photographer • Sigiriya Fortress Visit • Kandy Traditional Dance Performance • Dambulla Cave Temple • Polonnaruwa Archaeological Park • Sacred Tooth Relic Temple • Tea plantations and garden in Nuwara Eliya.

# CLASSICAL SRI LANKA

"I became a Travel Director because of my passion to meet new people and the opportunity to showcase the diversity of this paradise island." **– Lucky, Travel Director** 





SIGIRYA ROCK



WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK

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#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO SRI LANKA

Welcome to Sri Lanka. On arrival, you'll be picked up and transferred to your luxury hotel, the Taj Samudra, Colombo. A contemporary building situated on the seafront, it provides an idyllic ambience at sunset.

Unwind and rejuvenate before meeting your fellow travellers and Travel Director at 19:00, for a Welcome Dinner with drinks. (DW)

Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo.

#### DAY 2 EXPLORE COLOMBO

In the morning, head on a leisurely walking tour of Colombo with Mark Forbes, a photographer and wildlife enthusiast, and discover the city's hidden treasures. Journey through a myriad of buildings that date back from 17th century and were erected mostly during Dutch and British rule. Visit Pettah Market, where locals head to pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, garments and jewelery. This market place is older than the buildings around it and an area best explored with a local.

Later, head out to explore old Colombo's oldest neighborhoods by tuk-tuk. Cruise the city streets as the sun descends over the Indian Ocean and the city lights spring to life around a pulse of evening activity. (B)

#### DAY 3 WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

**Relaxed Start.** After breakfast, begin your journey to Wilpattu National Park. On arrival, check into your luxury safari camp located on the border of the park, a quintessential glamping experience and a satisfying blend of comfort and nature. Enjoy relaxing in your spacious living room, with views of the lush, green jungle just steps away. In the evening, explore the park by jeep safari in search for Sri Lanka's big four—leopards, elephants, sloth bears and deer. (B) (L) (D)

#### Mahoora Safari Camp, Wilpattu National Park.

#### DAY 4 JUNGLE SAFARI

Enjoy journeying through the jungle on your morning and afternoon safaris. Keep your eyes peeled for crocodiles, buffalos, mongooese and turtles. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 5 WILPATTU TO SIGIRIYA

In the morning head south, making your way to Sigiriya.

Visit Anuradhapura with Insight Choice. Choose to explore the temple complex, sprawling with a rich collection of archeological wonders. Alternatively, visit the small community of Puranagama, to experience traditional village life.

Meet a practicing Buddhist and embark on a guided walking tour of the Ritigala jungle's enveloped paths. Hear the tales and secrets of the forest dwelling monks, a community that once inhabited the monastic reserve and today devote their lives to simple living in the forest. (B) (D)

#### Hotel Aliya Resort & Spa, Sigiriya.

## DAY 6 EXPLORING SIGIRIYA'S ANCIENT KINGDOM

Explore Sigiriya with Insight Choice. Choose to climb Sigiriya Rock. Alternatively, visit Sigiriya Water Gardens.

Later, visit the historic city of Polonnaruwa, the second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms. During a tuk-tuk ride, explore the ancient remains of temples and tombs.

Explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site before heading back to your hotel. (B)



**TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** Anuradhapura temple. (Day 5, Sri Lanka)

## **DAY 7** COLOURFUL CAVES AND RAINFORESTS

Today you'll visit the colourful Dambulla Caves. Also known as the Golden Temple caves, this World Heritage Site is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. Stop at Tamarind Gardens for a MAKE TRAVEL

MATTER® Experience. This local farm has been working to supply community members with access to clean water, nutritional food, and supports the village towards a sustainable future. Later, arrive in Kandy. Once here you'll enjoy a cultural evening of drums and a dance performance. (B)

Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy.

#### DAY 8 TEA COUNTRY HILLS

Relaxed Start. Visit the Sacred Tooth Relic. Located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, it is home to Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic, a tooth of Buddha. Later meet Rahju, a local artist, at his contemporary art gallery. Enjoy a private viewing of his magnificent paintings and discuss his unique perspectives on life over a cup of tea. Continue to Nuwara Eliya, a green haven of tea plantations and tea gardens.

In the evening, participate in a cooking demonstration. Learn to cook Sri Lankan and South Indian cuisine with a local chef, before indulging in the fruits of your hard work. (B) (D)

Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya.

#### DAY 9 EXPLORING NUWARA ELIYA

Discover Horton Plains on a hike to World's End, where a stunning escarpment plunges 880 metres down to the jungle floor. Stand in awe and capture incredible views of the expansive plateau, before mist and cloud obscure the scene.

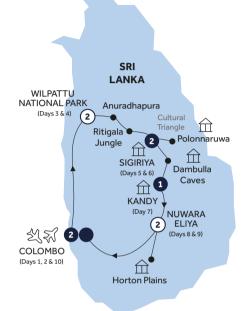
In the afternoon, learn everything there is to know about Ceylon tea during a visit to a tea plantation and garden.

Walk through the plantation during plucking time and spend time with a tea plucker to learn about their life, before enjoying a tasting session hosted by an expert.

In the evening, toast to your travels with your new friends over a Celebration Dinner at your hotel. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 GOODBYE COLOMBO

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers, as your journey comes to an end. You'll be driven back to Colombo airport for your onward flight. A stop will be made in Colombo for those extending their stay. (B)



#### KEY

- Central Hotels + Nights
- Hotels + Nights

  Place Visited

#### CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our guests and Travel Directors



(a) ANAND NACTAJLER RIO CABLE CAR, BRAZIL



(alolainsighttd) RIO, BRAZIL



(a) ANAND NACHTAJLER MACHU PICCHU, PERU





(a) ANAND NACTAJLER BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



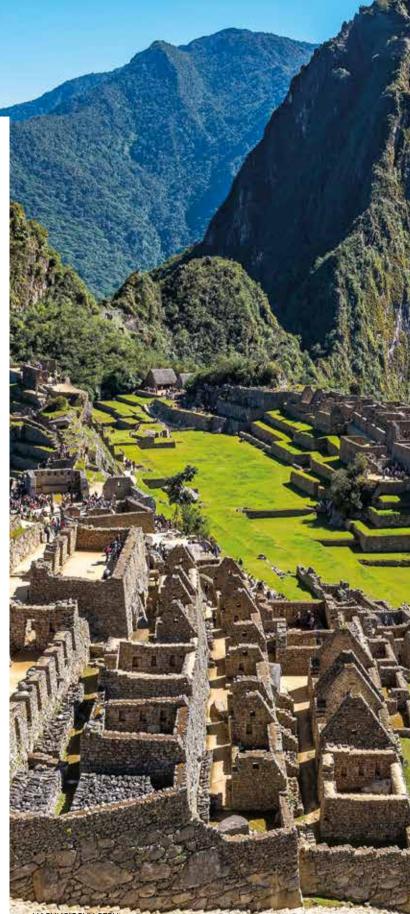
(a) ANAND NACTAJLER TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE



(ainsight.kathleen CHRIST THE REDEEMER, BRAZIL



O @ANAND NACHTAJLER CUSCO, PERU



MACHUPICCHU, PERU

# America



Peru with Machu Picchu & the Nazca Lines 13 DAYS | PAGE 206

Argentina, Uruguay & Brazil Discovery 11 DAYS | PAGE 208

Best of Chile from Atacama to Patagonia (with Easter Island Option) 11/14 DAYS | Available online

INSIGHT VACATIONS 20

| 2023             | 2024         |
|------------------|--------------|
| JAN   25         | JAN   31     |
| MAR   01, 14     | MAR   20     |
| APR   19, 26     | APR   10, 17 |
| MAY   17         | MAY   15     |
| SEP   13, 27     | SEP   11, 25 |
| OCT   11, 18, 25 | OCT   09, 16 |
| NOV   15         | NOV   06, 20 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/perunazcalines

You may join this trip on Day 4 in Lima and skip the Nazca Lines experience.

# REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

**13 DAYS** 1 COUNTRY 25 MEALS 28 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW BE THE FIRST TO RATE

#### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

**Sacred Valley:** Visit a local traditional Quechua weaver in the Sacred Valley for a private textile presentation.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

Machu Picchu: In the afternoon, take your first guided visit to Machu Picchu with Local Experts where you'll explore the sophisticated 15th century Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains.

**Cusco:** This evening, make your way to Cusco's planetarium to learn more on how the Incas interpreted the stars. After a reception with hot wine (or tea) and appetizers, local experts will explain and share stories about the influence the stars had on Andean culture. You'll then be led to a room specially accommodated to view the ancient night skies, weather permitting.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Cusco:** Choose to join a Local Expert on a trek of the Inca ruins in Puca Pucara or explore the bohemian neighborhood of San Blas and visit the prestigious art galleries.

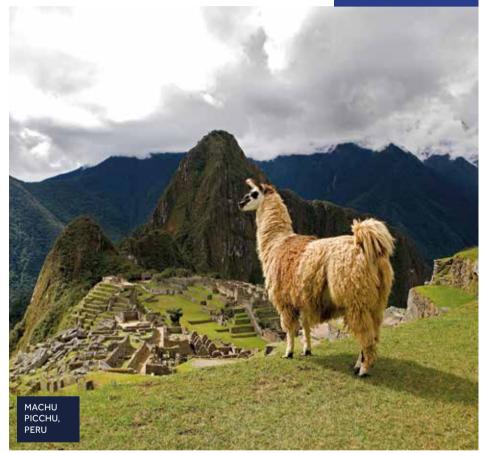
#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Ride the 360° IncaRail train with a special car and large windows for better viewing.

# PERU WITH MACHU PICCHU & THE NAZCA LINES

"Peru remains one of the few places in the world where ancient remnants of a lost civilization can be seen in every glance of this landscape." - Byron, Travel Director

EXCITING NEW IITINERARY





MORAY



NAZCA LINES FLIGHT

#### **DAY 1** ARRIVE LIMA

Arrive in Lima for the first day of your Nazca excursion. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers at the hotel bar for a welcome drink.

#### MGallery Manto Lima.

#### **DAY 2** COASTAL PARACAS

Relaxed Start. In the morning, head on a leisurely coastal drive to the beach town of Paracas. Fly over the mysterious Nazca Lines and see this UNESCO World Heritage Site from above. (B) (DW)

#### Hotel Paracas, a Luxury Collection Resort.

#### **DAY 3** BALLESTAS ISLANDS AND PERUVIAN WILDLIFF

Head on a scenic cruise to the Ballestas Islands, famous for its rock formations and marine life.

Explore this beautiful area before heading to the nearby city of Ica for lunch and a pisco distillery for a tastina.

After visiting a local museum, your evening is free. (B)(L)

#### DAY 4 COASTAL PERU AND LIMA

The final day of your Nazca lines experience will introduce you to coastal living with a local fisherman, followed by lunch and a tour of a historic hacienda where you will learn about a dark chapter in Peruvian history.

If you are joining the Peru with Machu Picchu journey today, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Unwind at your luxury abode, before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers in the evening for a Welcome Dinner with drinks. (B) (L) (DW)

#### MGallery Manto Lima.

#### **DAY 5** EXPLORE LIMA

**KEY** 

Relaxed Start. Join a Local Expert this morning to explore the best of Lima, including the Cathedral of Lima, the Government Palace, the Archbishop's Palace and City Hall.

Visit the San Francisco Monastery and its underground cemetrey then head to Museo Larco where you will indulge on a Highlight Lunch in its 18th century garden setting.

After lunch, meet a local guide who will take you around the museum's private collection for an in depth viewing. (B) (L)

#### DAY 6 LIMA TO SACRED VALLEY

Arrive in Cusco this morning for another day of Peruvian exploration, starting with a tour of the Sacred Valley while taking in impressive views on your scenic drive.

#### Enjoy lunch at Altar Inca, surrounded by some of the most stunning sights of the region.

Arrive at your hotel for a leisurely evening where you can rest and adjust to the altitude in total comfort. (B) (L)

#### Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness.

#### **DAY 7** EXPLORE SACRED VALLEY

Relaxed Start. Begin the day with a visit to the stunning Maras salt pans before heading to an Incan laboratory in Moray, located on an archeological site close to Cusco. Then join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience and visit a local traditional Quechua weaver where you will learn first hand about ancient weaving techniques and the importance these textiles have in shaping both personal and regional identities.

Make your way to Laguna Piuray where you'll enjoy your Highlight Lunch of Pachamanca, a traditional Peruvian feast. In the evening, transfer to Hacienda Huayoccari, a gem of the Sacred Valley. Explore its grounds and sit down for a special Peruvian Dinner. (B) (L) (DW)

#### **DAY 8** EXPLORE MACHU PICCHU

Relaxed Start. Board and prepare to be stunned for your 360° IncaRail train ride that takes you through countless stunning sights of Peru.

#### Enjoy lunch on your way to Machu Picchu pueblo.

On the way, visit the Ollantaytambo ruins and stop at a local house in the village to meet the family living there for fantastic local insight into the region. In the afternoon, it is finally time to visit Machu Picchu, where you'll meet Local Experts for a guided visit in small groups. They will take you through the countless ruins and explain their historical and archaeological significance, as well as the importance of their location.

#### End your day with a relaxing dinner and drinks at vour hotel. (B) (L) (DW)

#### Inkaterra Forest, Machu Picchu.

#### **DAY 9** MACHU PICCHU AT LEISURE

Take in the beauty and history of Machu Picchu for a second time, spending your morning exploring at your own pace. The afternoon is yours at leisure to continue vour explorations.

Then in the evening head to a fantastic Highlight Dinner with your fellow travellers. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 10 ON TO CUSCO

Relaxed Start. After breakfast, return by train to Ollantaytambo, where you will transfer to the ancient city of Cusco. Once you arrive, head out on a walking tour with a Local Expert. Visit its cathedral and the Korikancha temple. the most important temple in the Inca Empire.

The evening is yours at leisure. (B) JW Marriott El Convento Cusco.

#### **DAY 11** EXPLORING CUSCO

Start your day with a walking tour of Cusco, before heading to Sacsayhuaman. Afterward, choose to join a local expert on a guided hike of the Inca ruins at Puca Pucara. Alternatively you can explore the artisan bohemian neighborhood of San Blas and visit the prestigious art galleries.

#### Enjoy lunch at Pachapapa.

Visit San Blas Church and the surrounding streets, before making your way to San Pedro Market. Later, make your way to the city's planetarium for a private, after-hours tour, sample some local delicacies and hot wine as you gaze at the night sky. (B) (L)

#### DAY 12 LEISURE TIME IN CUSCO

Relaxed Start. Today. explore Cusco at your own pace. Perhaps head out on an optional visit to the ChocoMuseo to learn about chocolate making. Or maybe relax and unwind at your hotel, set in a beautiful 16th century building.

In the evening, join your fellow travellers for a memorable Celebration Dinner at Calle del Medio, where you will toast to your adventures.. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 13 DEPART CUSCO

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers as your trip comes to an end. Take a private transfer to Alejandro Velasco Astete International Airport. (B)



**AUTHENTIC DINING** Pachamanca Highlight Lunch. (Day 7, Laguna Piuray)





| 2023           | 2024                |
|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>JAN</b> 14  | <b>JAN</b>  20      |
| FEB 04         | <b>MAR  </b> 30     |
| MAR   11       | <b>0CT  </b> 05, 26 |
| <b>OCT</b>  21 | <b>NOV  </b> 30     |
| NOV 04, 25     |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit

insightvacations.com/argentinadiscovery

Combine this trip with Peru with Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines.

#### **& DISCOVERY JOURNEY** ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

11 DAYS **3 COUNTRIES** 18 MEALS **11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES** 

GUEST REVIEW

feefoes BE THE FIRST TO RATE THIS NEW TRIP.

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Rio de Janeiro: Join a local botanist for an exclusive guided visit to Rio's Botanical Garden, a research and preservation site for a rare collection of bromeliads and orchids, as well as old trees and exotic plants.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Buenos Aires: Witness a private demonstration and performance by professional tango dancers and musicians at an authentic "conventillo" in La Boca, where you will be introduced to this passionate dance and upbeat music

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Mendoza: Go on a nature tour to the Villavicencio Reserve located in the middle of the Andes. Head on a guided hike with a Local Expert to see the rich, natural mountainous landscape and enjoy a picnic style lunch alfresco. Alternatively enjoy a leisurely three winery tour with Malbec tastings and lunch.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT**

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Rio de Janeiro: Conclude the day with a cable car ride up to Sugarloaf Mountain for panoramic views of the Guanabara Bay and Rio's mountainous coastline.

# ARGENTINA, **URUGUAY & BRAZIL** DISCOVERY

"Discover the natural wonders of South America and its passionate cultures as you enjoy a traditional BBQ with locals in Buenos Aires. taste some of the best Malbecs in Mendoza's wine country, find history and charm in a colonial fort city in Uruquay and immerse yourself in the lush jungles of Iquassu falls and Tijuca National Park in Rio." - Byron, Travel Director

EXCITING NEW ITINERARY







MENDOZA WINE COUNTRY

BOTANICAL GARDEN, RIO

#### DAY 1 ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES

Nicknamed the "Paris of South America", this glamorous destination really does live up to its European counterpart. Neoclassical, Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings line its streets, attracting equally as sophisticated travellers. On arrival, you'll be transferred to your luxury hotel, the Alvear Icon. Located on the banks of the Rio de la Plata in Puerto Madero.

#### Relax and unwind before meeting your Travel Director and fellow guests for a three-course Welcome Dinner with wine. (DW)

#### Alvear Icon Hotel, Buenos Aires.

#### **DAY 2** EXPLORE BUENOS AIRES

**Relaxed Start.** Start your first full day in Buenos Aires with a city tour. Take in the capital's key sights including the Metropolitan Cathedral, Casa Rosada and Plaza de Mayo.

Later, visit the historic Mercado San Telmo. Built in 1897, this indoor market is situated in the Tango District, in the heart of the San Telmo neighbourhood.

Witness a private demonstration and performance by professional tango dancers at an authentic "conventillo" in La Boca, where you will be introduced to this passionate dance and upbeat music.

In the evening, enjoy an authentic Asado Porteno (Argentinian barbecue) with a local chef. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 3 ON TO COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

Today you'll travel by ferry across the Rio de la Plata, otherwise known as the River Plate. Visit the city of Colonia del Sacramento, with its charming cobbled streets and historic buildings. Now a UNESCO World heritage site, this colourful destination was originally founded by the Portuguese in the 1600s.

Enjoy lunch with wine at a local olive farm, Viñedos y Olivares del Quintón, known for their characteristic terrain and thermal air, the perfect setting for vineyards and olive groves. In the afternoon, take a guided walking tour of the protected old city and its 16th century buildings. It is your third and final night in Bueno Aires, so why not head out into the city to watch a tango performance or ask your Travel Director where is best to enjoy a relaxing dinner? (B) (LW)

#### DAY 4 BUENOS AIRES TO MENDOZA

It's time to head to the wine country of Argentina, the city of Mendoza. Board your flight to this bustling location.

From the Art Deco buildings that line its streets, to its quaint coffee shops and esteemed wineries, you'll be taken to the heart of Argentinian culture. (B)

#### Diplomatic Hotel, Mendoza.

#### DAY 5 FLAVOUR OF MENDOZA

**Relaxed Start.** Today, choose to enjoy a leisurely three winery tour with Malbec tastings and lunch. Alternatively, choose to visit the Villavicencio Natural Reserve and join a Local Expert on a guided hike for exquisite views of the region and a picnic style lunch.

Take in the area's spectacular scenery, with the Andes as your backdrop.

## Later, indulge in a delicious dinner with wine at Abrasado, an Argentinian steakhouse.

Situated in Downtown Mendoza, you'll be close to some of the city's best wine bars, shops and restaurants. Why not end the evening with a nightcap? (B) (LW) (DW)

#### DAY 6 MENDOZA TO IGUASSU FALLS

With over 270 waterfalls, rare flora and fauna, and lush rainforest, your destination really is as impressive as the photos suggest. Meaning "big water" in the Guaraní language, the stunning falls land in both Argentina and Brazil. Have a night at leisure within the National Park as you take in your beautiful surroundings. (B)

Gran Melia, Iguassu Falls.

#### DAY 7 SIGHTSEEING AT IGUASSU FALLS

**Relaxed Start.** Take in breathtaking views of the jungle and falls, before heading out with a Local Expert to explore the Argentinian side of the park. Take an optional boat ride to Devil's Throat, the largest and perhaps most famous water cascade in the park.

#### Your Highlight Dinner will be served at The Argentine Experience. The restaurant serves traditional Argentinian cuisine complemented with local wine. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 8 THE BRAZILIAN SIDE

Wake up and enjoy breakfast with a tropical view. Today you'll take a guided visit to the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls. While the walk around the Brazilian side is shorter, its no less impressive. Your Local Expert will show you panoramic views of San Martin Island, before you head to the airport for your flight to Rio. On arrival to the capital of samba, the rest of the evening will be at leisure. Either relax at your hotel or head out and explore the area's local nightlife. (B)

#### Fairmont Rio de Janeiro Copacabana.

#### DAY 9 EXPLORE RIO DE JANEIRO

With spectacular rooms, you'll start the day at the idyllic Fairmont hotel.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER Experience® with a local botanist for a special guided visit to Rio's Botanical Garden, a preservation site for a rare collection of bromeliads and orchids, as well as old trees and exotic plants.

#### Enjoy a Highlight Lunch with a caipirinha at Casa Camolese, a contemporary restaurant situated next to the garden.

Conclude your day with a cable car ride up to Sugarloaf Mountain. (B) (L)

#### DAY 10 LEISURE TIME IN RIO DE JANEIRO

**Relaxed Start.** In the morning, take a tour of Tijuca Forest National Park, where you'll find Mount Corcovado, home to the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue.

Spend the afternoon at leisure. Why not soak up the sun on Copacabana Beach or ask your Travel Director for the best spot to grab a Brazilian coffee?

In the evening, commemorate your holiday as you join your new friends for a memorable Celebration Dinner at a traditional Brazilian churrascaria, offering views of the Sugarloaf Mountain. (B) (DW)

#### DAY 11 DEPART RIO DE JANEIRO

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers as your trip comes to an end. Take our organised transfer to Rio de Janeiro-Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport. (B)





# **#INSIGHTMOMENTS** By our guests and Travel Directors



CAROLK\_TD ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, USA



TRAVELDIRECTORTODD
 SNAKE RIVER, USA



(a)CAROLK\_TD
 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL
 PARK, USA



(C) MARGOT LOJEK SAN FRANCISCO, USA



(a) TRAVELDIRECTORTODD CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL, USA



(a) JASONINSIGHTVACATIONS MORMON ROW, USA



MARGOT LOJEK MONUMENT VALLEY, USA



O @VAL MANSFIELD MALIGNE LAKE, CANADA



# USA @

Jewels of Alaska (with Glacier Discovery Cruise Option) 7/14 DAYS | PAGE 212

American Parks Trail (with Rocky Mountaineer Option) 9/12DAYS | PAGE 214

Best of California

America's Magnificent National Parks 15 DAYS | PAGE 218

Country Roads of the Deep South 12 DAYS | PAGE 220

Eastern Canada Discovery 8 DAYS | PAGE 222

Canadian Rockies & Pacific Coast 14 DAYS | PAGE 224

New England's

Fall Foliage 8 DAYS | PAGE 226

Best of Eastern Canada & USA 16 DAYS | PAGE 228 with

Hawaii with Oahu, Maui & the Big Island 10 DAYS | PAGE 230

Wonders of the American West 10 DAYS | Available online

Spectacular Rockies & Glaciers of Alberta (with Rocky Mountaineer Option) 8/9 DAYS | Available online

Landscapes of Canadian Maritimes 12 DAYS | Available online

Spectacular National Parks of Eastern USA 10 DAYS | Available online

Boston, Cape Cod & the Islands (with Canada & New England Cruise Option) 8/16 DAYS | Available online

Enchanting Canyonlands 7 DAYS Available online

Best of East Coast USA 9 DAYS | Available online



Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to watch a video about the USA.

| 2023                          | 2024                       |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| MAY   15, 22                  | <b>MAY  </b> 20, 27        |
| <b>JUN  </b> 05, 12, 26       | <b>JUN  </b> 03, 10, 24    |
| <b>JUL</b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 | <b>JUL</b> 01, 08, 15, 22, |
| <b>AUG</b> 07, 14, 28         | 29                         |
| <b>SEP</b>  04                | <b>AUG</b> 05, 12, 19, 26  |
| -                             | SEP 02                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/jewelsalaska

#### **® REGIONAL JOURNEY** ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

7 DAYS **1 COUNTRY** 11 MEALS 9 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoe 4.7/5 GUEST REVIEW

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Anchorage: Experience a guided visit of the Alaska Native Heritage Centre, a renowned cultural centre and museum where people come to expand their understanding of Alaska's indigenous people.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Denali National Park: Meet a local climber at a private presentation in Denali National Park and hear first-hand about their experience climbing the highest peak in North America.

Anchorage: Enjoy an exclusive Agutak (Inuit ice cream) making demonstration during a visit to the renowned Alaska Native Heritage Centre.

#### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Begin your vacation in culinary style at MUSE, a bespoke restaurant and atrium café located within the Anchorage Museum.

In the evening, join your Travel Director for a wonderful Celebration Dinner, complete with wine and good cheer.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

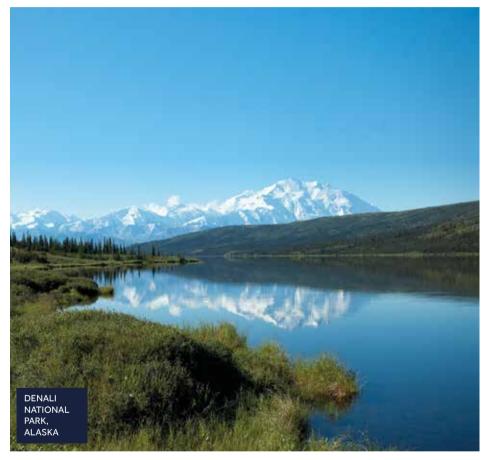
Talkeetna: Enjoy a jet Boat Tour up the Chulitna River and visit a Trappers Cabin. Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of hunting and trapping in Interior Alaska.

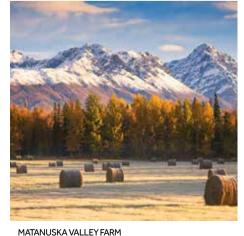
Whittier: Travel to Whittier to board the 26 Glacier Cruise for a 100-mile boat tour of Prince William Sound and into the College Fjord where you will come up close and personal to the glaciers. Visit with the Captain in the wheelhouse and enjoy an included lunch.

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# **JEWELS OF ALASKA** WITH GLACIER DISCOVERY **CRUISE OPTION**

"One experience not to be missed on this trip is taking a coach tour into Denali National Park. That's because other than hiking in. this is the only way to experience the 6 million acre Denali National Park." - Joel, Travel Director







IDITAROD RACER HUSKIES

# DAY 1 ANCHORAGE, THE CITY OF LIGHTS AND FLOWERS

Welcome to Alaska, an adventurous land of wildlife, mountains, national parks and glaciers.

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner. (DW)

#### Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa.

# DAY 2 ANCHORAGE SIGHTSEEING AND THE MATANUSKA VALLEY

Get acquainted with Anchorage on an immersive city tour.

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the Alaska Native Heritage Centre and discover how the culinary traditions passed on by generations of Alaska's first people, became a key component in the survival of the culture. Witness firsthand a private demonstration of Agutak ice cream making and how this culinary link to the past helps breathe new life into the indigenous culture of today. This afternoon, travel through the fertile Matanuska Valley and stop at a local farm to see how the long summer days and glacial silt create the perfect environment for growing vegetables and flowers.

Head to the quaint community of Talkeetna, nestled at the base of Mount Denali, North America's tallest peak. The evening is yours at leisure. Feel free to ask your Travel Director for suggestions on the best spots to grab a bite. (B)

#### Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge.

#### DAY 3 TALKEETNA SIGHTSEEING

This morning, enjoy an immersive jet boat tour up the Chulitna River and make a visit to a trapper's cabin. Learn about the fascinating lifestyle of hunting and trapping in Interior Alaska. The rest of the day is yours to explore, perhaps discovering more of Talkeetna or joining an optional experience such as a flightseeing tour of the Alaska Range, or a dryland dog sledding ride. (B)

# DAY 4 JOURNEY ALONG THE ALASKAN RAILROAD

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a Relaxed Start this morning before boarding the world-famous Alaska Railroad train for a spectacular journey over swift, rushing streams, toward Denali National Park and Preserve. View the majestic surroundings from the comfort of your glass-domed rail car. Later, meet a local climber who will share stories about what it's like to a climb up one of the most daunting and tallest land-based mountains in the world, Denali. A trek that begins deep in the heart of the Alaskan Range and where conditions only get tougher further into the journey, forcing climbers to build snow walls for protection from the harsh elements. The climb which takes approximately 17-18 days round trip, takes incredible physical and mental fortitude.

For tonight's dinner with wine, the choice is yours between a charming local brewery or the lodge's rustic restaurant during your Dine-Around evening. (B) (DW)

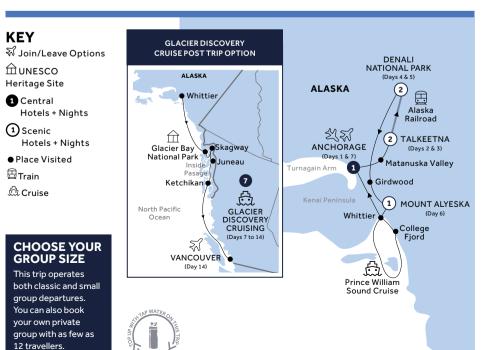
#### Grande Denali Lodge, Denali National Park.

# DAY 5 DENALI NATIONAL PARK, THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS

Relaxed Start. With the Denali National Park and Preserve just a short drive away from your hotel, you'll find a number of ways to enjoy the Alaskan wilderness on your own or spend the day partaking in one of our optional activities. From a blissful stroll through one of the meadows, to a rewarding hike, this park is for everyone. You will also find that to be true with the exciting optional experiences which include a rafting trip down the Nenana River, (waiver required) to a helicopter flightseeing tour or a Denali Wilderness walking tour, the choice is yours – just don't forget your camera! End the day back at your lodge where you'll enjoy panoramic views of your surroundings under the star filled night. (B)

#### DAY 6 GIRDWOOD AND MOUNT ALYESKA

Enjoy a scenic journey along the George Parks Highway. Stop in Big Lake, AK and visit four-time Iditarod winner Martin Buser at his own home. Arriving at the kennel, you will be greeted by



between thirty and sixty excited sled dogs. Spend time with Martin and learn about the many challenges faced on the 1,049-mile dogsled race. Take a virtual trip along the Iditarod trail alongside Martin's narration including countless stories from his thirty-five years of racing, as well as a great deal of Iditarod history. A true insider experience into the world of the Iditarod, that very few get to experience.

Journey on the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm with its dramatic views, before arriving in the town of Girdwood, home of the Alyeska Resort.

In the evening, join your Travel Director for a wonderful Celebration Dinner, complete with wine and good cheer. (B) (L) (DW)

The Hotel Alyeska, Girdwood.

# DAY 7 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CRUISE AND DEPART ANCHORAGE

**Relaxed Start.** Take this morning to enjoy the surroundings and amenities at the beautiful Alyeska resort.

Travel to Whittier to board the 26 Glacier Cruise for a 100-mile (160-kilometre) boat tour of Prince William Sound and into the College Fjord with the chance to see the glaciers up close. Visit with the Captain in the wheelhouse to learn how he expertly navigates the icy waterways and sit down to a sumptuous lunch against an incredible backdrop.

For those saying farewell today, travel back to Anchorage where you will arrive at the Anchorage Airport at approximately 20:00. (B) (L)

#### POST TRIP CRUISE OPTION

# DAYS 7 - 14 YOUR GLACIER DISCOVERY SOUTHBOUND CRUISE:

If you're continuing your journey on the Glacier Discovery Cruise from Whittier, you will be transferred to the ship pier to board the MS Nieuw Amsterdam or MS Noordam, where you'll enjoy dinner and set sail in the evening. While on board, the cruise line will provide you with options and activities for the day. Whether you want to stay on the ship or explore more on land, the choice is yours. You'll also have a wide range of meal options to choose from throughout your journey. Enjoy your ship's facilities over the next week as you watch the ever-changing panorama. Behold Glacier Bay National Park, its Sitka-spruce forests alive with grizzlies and wolves. You'll be struck by the thunderous boom of building-size icebergs calving into the sea from vast rivers of ice. Explore the Inside Passage community of Skagway and browse the rustic shops and gold rush era saloons of Juneau. At Ketchikan, hear the stories behind the collection of native totem poles. A range of optional shore excursions and additional sightseeing will also be offered and can be prebooked online with Holland America Line before your cruise begins. Arrival to Vancouver port is at approximately 9:30am.



| 2023  | 2024                            |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29 | <b>MAY  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 02, 09, 16, 23, 30                 | <b>JUN  </b> 07, 14, 21, 28     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 26             | AUG   09, 16, 23, 30            |
| <b>AUG  </b> 02, 09, 11, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30     | <b>SEP  </b> 06, 13, 20, 27     |
| <b>SEP  </b> 01, 08, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 29 |                                 |
|   |                                 |

**0CT**|06

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/americanparkstrail

12 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 14 MEALS 10 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>e9</sup> 4.7<sup>/5</sup>

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Black Hills:** Visit Crazy Horse Memorial, which is dedicated to protecting and preserving the culture, tradition and living heritage of the North American Indians. A special Insight Experience awaits as you are taken up to stand face-to-face with this impressive sculpture.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

UCross: Choose to live the American frontier dream with a scenic country horseback ride. Alternatively, take a leisurely fishing outing and enjoy the serene surroundings.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

Yellowstone National Park: Travel out of Yellowstone NP through Shoshone Canyon and Absaroka Rocky Mountains to the Wild West Town of Cody.

Visit Grand Teton National Park • Yellowstone National Park • UCross • Spearfish Canyon • Custer State Park.• Mount Rushmore • Badlands National Park.

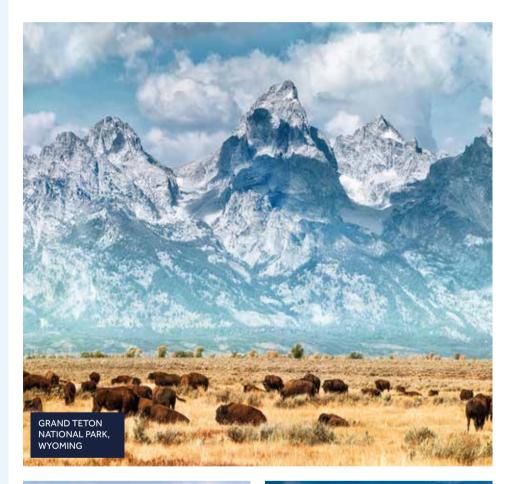
#### SCENIC DRIVES

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Yellowstone National Park: Travel out of Yellowstone NP through Shoshone Canyon and Absaroka Rocky Mountains to the Wild West Town of Cody.

# AMERICAN PARKS TRAIL WITH ROCKY MOUNTAINEER OPTION

"One thing I really love about showing my guests my home state of Wyoming is that we are home to the world's first national park (Yellowstone), the first national forest (Shoshone) and the first national monument (Devils Tower)." - Ann, Travel Director





MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

#### DAY 1 ARRIVE SALT LAKE CITY

Welcome to Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah. Situated between Wasatch Range and the Great Salt Lake, this mountainous city is perfect for outdoorsy types, with a strong focus on skiing and fishina.

At 18:00, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner with wine, where you will meet your fellow auests. (DW)

#### Hilton Salt Lake City Centre.

#### **DAY 2** JACKSON AND THE TETONS

Travel onward from Salt Lake City, heading north across the Oregon Trail to historic Jackson. Have your cameras ready for the famous elk antlers that adorn the central square, while eager shoppers may choose from a number of charming traditional boutiques to browse. (B)

#### Elk Country Inn, Jackson Hole.

#### **DAY 3** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Relaxed Start. This morning, you'll have the opportunity to partake in an optional scenic float down the Snake River inside Grand Teton National Park. Later in the day we enter the breathtaking Yellowstone, known for its unique geothermal activity, spectacular landscapes and abundant wildlife you are sure to spot. (B)

#### Yellowstone National Park Lodge.

#### **DAY 4** GEYSERS AND COLOURFUL MUDPOTS

Walk among hot springs and watch erupting geysers on an informative stroll with your Travel Director.

See Old Faithful, Hayden Valley and behold the powerful Lower Yellowstone Falls. (B)

#### **DAY 5** THE RANCH AT UCROSS

Head to the Wild West town of Cody, and learn about America's great Western legends at the Buffalo Bill Centre.

Enjoy a ranch-style Highlight Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

Ranch at UCross. Clearmont.

**KEY** 

⊞UNESCO

Heritage Site

Central

Scenic

12 travellers.

#### DAY 6 DEVILS TOWER INTO THE BLACK HILLS

Relaxed Start. Explore with Insight Choice. Choose to head out on a scenic country horseback ride accompanied by a Ranch Hand. Alternatively. try your hand at fishing or simply relax and take in the beautiful scenery. Make your way to Devils Tower, an astounding geological feature that protrudes out of the surrounding Black Hills. Next, experience Spearfish Canyon. (B)

#### Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Spearfish Canyon

#### DAY 7 CUSTER AND THE WILD. WILD WEST

Today we set out to explore Badlands National Park, home to some of the most unique natural structures in the world

End the day surrounded by more picturesque landscape in Custer State Park. (B)

#### State Game Lodge, Custer State Park.

#### DAY 8 MOUNTAIN MONUMENTS OF THE **BLACK HILLS**

Relaxed Start. Travel to iconic Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Join an Insight Experience at the Crazy Horse Memorial- the world's largest mountain carving created in honour of the Lakota warrior. Curated with a view to help protect and continue the living heritage of the Native Americans, this experience details how the memorial was carved from land sacred to the tribes. With exclusive access not available to the general public, guests ascend 563 feet (172 metres) and have the opportunity to face the monument up close.

Join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a Celebration Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

#### **DAY 9** DEPART RAPID CITY OR DENVER

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers. Guests flying out of Rapid City may depart at their own leisure. A transfer to Denver International Airport is available for guests flying out of Denver, where arrival is at approximately 16:30. For those continuing their adventure on the Rocky Mountaineer, you will enjoy a relaxing evening at your Denver hotel before embarking on the rail journey of a lifetime the following morning. (B)

#### **DAY 10** DENVER TO GLENWOOD SPRINGS ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Rise early this morning and make your way independently to Union Station where you will check in and board a coach for a quick transfer to the Rocky Mountaineer train. Hop on and get comfortable as you wave goodbye to Denver and cross the Continental Divide. Take in the spectacular views of rugged canyons and the Colourado River through panoramic windows. Enjoy the staff's commentary and comradery of your newfound friends while indulging in the menu and service. Perhaps you'll even choose to step out onto the vestibule to get a breath of fresh air and experience the many tunnels that have been carved into the mountains before arriving at the resort town of Glenwood Springs where you will disembark and enjoy an overnight stay. (B) (L)

#### Assigned by Rocky Mountaineer.

#### DAY 11 GLENWOOD SPRINGS TO MOAB

Return to the Rocky Mountaineer this morning and leave charming Glenwood Springs behind. Another day of awe-inspiring sights awaits as you make your way across the Colourado-Utah border. Stunning mountain views, red sandstone landscapes and even occasional wildlife such as pronghorn emerge as you approach Moab, the gateway to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Part ways this afternoon and transfer to your Moab hotel. The rest of the day is yours to do as you please. (B)

#### DAY 12 MOAB AND DEPART SALT LAKE CITY

Your adventure with Rocky Mountaineer ends as you transfer from Moab to Salt Lake City via motorcoach. You will arrive at Salt Lake City International Airport at approximately 15:00, please be aware when booking your return flights.



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT See Jenny Lake. (Day 3, Grand Teton National Park)



| 2023              | 2024            |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>JAN</b> 13     | MAR 01          |
| FEB 10            | <b>APR</b> 12   |
| MAR 03            | MAY   10        |
| <b>APR</b> 14     | <b>JUN  </b> 14 |
| MAY 05, 12        | <b>JUL </b> 19  |
| <b>JUN</b> 16, 23 | AUG   16, 31    |
| <b>JUL</b>  28    | SEP 20          |
| AUG   18          | <b>OCT </b> 04  |
| SEP 08, 22        |                 |
| <b>OCT</b>  06    |                 |
|                   |                 |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/bestcalifornia

REGIONAL JOURNEY
ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 13 MEALS 15 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

#### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Yosemite National Park:** Join a naturalist guide/climber at El Capitan Meadow where you will become familiar with the basics of rock climbing, while learning how they help preserve the vertical, natural environment. Your visit contributes to the Yosemite Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of US National Parks.

#### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**San Francisco:** Join a youth-led walking tour of Chinatown's historic alleyways where you will learn of their origins and hear stories from those who call this place home.

#### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

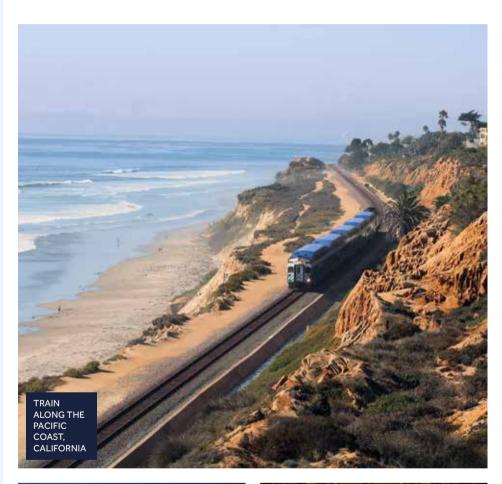
Los Angeles: Explore Los Angeles with Insight Choice. Take to the Miracle Mile and choose to visit one of the excellent museums. You can learn about the history and artistry of motorized automobiles at the Petersen Automotive Museum. Alternatively, embrace the tradition of filmmaking at the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

#### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

San Diego: Board the Pacific Surfliner and enjoy far-reaching ocean vistas as your train journey takes you to Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Pismo Beach. Travel the whole length of the service and experience the Southern California landscape from a unique vantage point.

# BEST OF CALIFORNIA

"The Amtrak route from San Diego to Los Angeles has operated since 1938, bringing you down the tracks into living history. When you arrive in downtown Los Angeles, the renaissance is clear when you see the restored grand old monuments like the Los Angeles Theatre and the Bradbury Building." - Jason, Travel Director





GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE



LOS ANGELES THEATER

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### DAY 1 WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO

Kick off your trip at your hotel on the downtown waterfront.

Perhaps take a walk along the bay before joining your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner at Vistal Bar + Restaurant. Located right inside your hotel, it boasts thoughtfully sourced and curated menu offering the best of California. (DW)

### InterContinental San Diego.

### DAY 2 SAN DIEGO SIGHTSEEING

Discover America's finest city as you embark on a sightseeing tour with your Travel Director. Journey through the Gaslamp Quarter, the historic heart of San Diego and Balboa Park, one of North America's most iconic urban parks. Finally, stroll among the atmospheric old and historic adobe ranch homes of the Old Town State Historical Park. This afternoon, board the Pacific Surfliner and enjoy far-reaching ocean views in business class as the train hugs the coast. Travel through Orange County to the Mission Modern-style Union Station in Los Angeles. (B)

### InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown.

### **DAY 3** LOS ANGELES SIGHTSEEING

An exciting day awaits as you set out to explore lively Los Angeles. Ride on the landmark Angel's Flight funicular for a taste of early 20th-century nostalgia. Continue to your journey through Downtown Los Angeles exploring Grand Central Market, the Bradbury Building, and US Bank Tower while learning about the history and architecture from the 18th century to the present. Look for the hand and footprints of cinema's greatest celebrities at the historic TCL Chinese Theatre, Hollywood's most sought-after theatre for movie premieres. In the afternoon, explore Los Angeles with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the innovative Petersen Automotive Museum. Alternatively, head to the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and take a deep dive into the history of filmmaking.

To top off your perfect day, you will dine at a local restaurant highlighting the flavours of Southern California. (B) (DW)

## DAY 4 TRAIN JOURNEY TO THE AMERICAN RIVIERA

Return to Union Station and board your Pacific Surfliner train. Travel through the valleys around Los Angeles before arriving at the coast where the shoreline wraps around to Santa Barbara. Spend time on State Street, a palm tree-lined avenue of shops and eateries before you further explore Santa Barbara with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the 18th-century Old Mission, one of the original 21 California Missions founded by Spanish Franciscans. Alternatively, take a relaxing stroll through the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and learn about California's diverse native plants. (B)

### Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort.

### DAY 5 BEACH TOWNS AND WINE COUNTRY

**Relaxed Start.** Today we take the Pacific Surfliner train from Santa Barbara to Pismo Beach. Enjoy stunning ocean views and lush farmlands as you head north into our final destination dotted with olive groves, vineyards, and orchards. Enjoy lunch along the coast on your own before you are treated to a an olive oil farm tour and tasting experience.

In the evening, discover why Pismo Beach is known as the Clam Capital of the world or relax and dine at your hotel. (B)

### Vespera Resort.

### DAY 6 GIANT SEQUOIAS

Journey to the majestic Yosemite National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Stop at the Mariposa Grove, home to over 500 mature sequoias and admire these gigantic trees. The oldest tree in the Grove is the Grizzly Giant, which dates back around 3000 years and stands 209 feet (64 metres) tall.

### Once you've settled in to your hotel, enjoy a threecourse dinner with wine in The Mountain Room at Yosemite Valley Lodge.

Take in views of the nearly 2500 foot (762 metres) high waterfall while exploring diverse and sustainable menu offerings that include local, organic, and seasonal preparations. (B) (DW)

### Yosemite Valley Lodge.

## DAY 7 EXPLORING YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Relaxed Start. Join a naturalist guide/climber and get familiar with the ins and outs of rock climbing. Take a step back and spend time watching experts in action. You can see climbers tackling some of the more than 60 routes up the granite monolith that is El Capitan and you will MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® learning how climbers help preserve the vertical environment. After lunch, continue exploring Yosemite National Park with your Tour Director before settling into an evening on your own. (B)

### DAY 8 ON TO SAN FRANCISCO

Travel towards the West Coast, cross the Bay Bridge and arrive in buzzing San Francisco. Head to the Fisherman's Wharf, once home to the city's colourful fishing fleet and today a popular district full of restaurants, cafes and shops. This afternoon, join your Travel Director for a stroll across the legendary Golden Gate Bridge, a symbol of California, then continue on a short drive to the quaint town of Sausalito. Enjoy some leisure time before taking the ferry back to San Francisco, passing the infamous Alcatraz Island. (B)

### Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, San Francisco.

### DAY 9 SAN FRANCISCO SIGHTSEEING

**Relaxed Start.** This morning, venture across the road to the Ferry Building and shop among the stalls at one of America's most famous farmers markets. On your city sightseeing tour, journey past lively Union Square and the vast Golden Gate Park, before passing through the SoMa District and Mission Bay. In the afternoon, we visit the oldest and largest Chinatown in the US on our Insight Experience. Tours are led by Chinatown Alleyway Tours - a community based non-profit that is youth-run and youth-led.

Tonight, toast to your travels at a local restaurant at your Celebration Dinner. (B) (DW)

### DAY 10 FAREWELL CALIFORNIA

It is time to bid farewell to your fellow travellers and new friends as you depart at your own leisure with plenty of new memories. (B)





TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Yosemite Falls. (Day 7, Yosemite National Park)



| 2023<br>MAY   06, 08, 11, 14,<br>20, 27<br>JUN   03, 17<br>JUL   08, 12, 15, 20,<br>22, 27 | 2024<br>APR   27<br>MAY   04, 11, 18, 25<br>JUN   01, 08, 15, 22.<br>29 |
|--|---|
| <b>AUG</b>   03, 05, 12, 19,   | JUL   06, 13  |
| 22, 26   | AUG   03, 10, 17, 24,   |
| <b>SEP</b>   07, 09, 12, 16,   | 31  |
| 23, 30   | SEP   07, 14, 21  |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/americasparks

This trip is a combination of **Enchanting** Canyonlands and American Parks Trail.

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

15 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 21 MEALS 23 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

## feefoee 4.5<sup>/5</sup>

GUEST REVIEW

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Monument Valley: Deepen your knowledge and connection with the first nations of this land as we travel to Monument Valley by way of off-road vehicles to the cookout site. Here you'll enjoy an authentically delicious BBQ lunch with members of the Navajo Nation.

Page: Navajo owned and operated; Red Heritage, a Native American Performing Arts Theater, showcases awe inspiring local talent, featuring powwow dancers, flute playing, and live drum music. A MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experience, helping preserve Navajo Culture and dance. Embrace these beautiful and ancient arts while contributing to the UN's Global goal of reducing inequalities.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

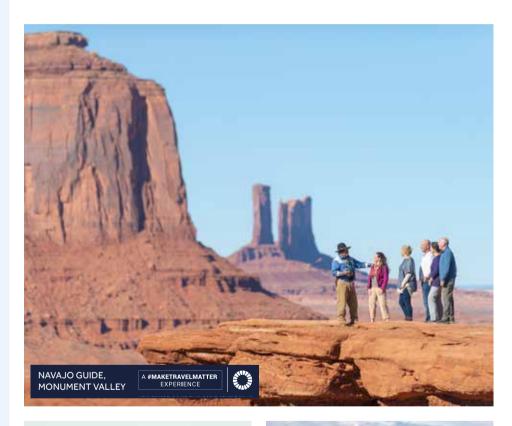
**Black Hills:** Visit Crazy Horse Memorial, which is dedicated to protecting and preserving the culture, tradition and living heritage of the North American Indians. A special Insight Experience awaits as you are taken up to stand face-to-face with this impressive sculpture.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Zion National Park: Visit the Zion Nature Centre at the Zion Canyon Visitor Centre the most well known of Zion's Earth friendly endeavors. Learn about how the Centre was built on a previously disturbed site & utilized outdoor exhibits to take advantage of Zion's climate or alternatively, take a hike to the Emerald Pools led by your Travel Director.

## AMERICA'S MAGNIFICENT NATIONAL PARKS

"The butte's native name is actually Mato Tipila which means Bear Lodge. A foot path takes you around the base, and as you climb through the surrounding boulders and forestry, its easy to feel the immense presence of the tower." **-Byron, Travel Director** 





GRIZZLY BEAR, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



SNAKE RIVER

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## **DAY 1** ARRIVE IN PHOENIX AND TRAVEL TO SCOTTSDALE

Welcome to Arizona, famous for road trips, Monument Valley, and of course the Grand Canyon.

At 18:00, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner at Zuzu, where you will have the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another. (DW)

### Hotel Valley Ho, Scottsdale.

## DAY 2 SEDONA AND THE WONDERS OF THE MIGHTY GRAND CANYON

Travel through world-renowned Red Country along the Red Rock Scenic Byway, one of only 20 designated All-American Roads nationwide. Meet your Local Expert, Tim at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to learn about the origins of the five-million-year-old canyon. (B)

### Grand Canyon National Park Lodge.

## DAY 3 MONUMENT VALLEY AND LAKE POWELL

Wake up early to experience an incomparable sunrise over the Grand Canyon. Head to the Cameron Trading Post, on of the oldest and most historic general stores in Arizona. Enter Monument Valley Tribal Park, where you'll join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you meet your Navajo Local Experts for a private, off-the-beaten path exploration of this magical valley and learn about Navajo history, culture and heritage. (B) (L)

### DAY 4 LEISURELY LAKE POWELL

**Relaxed Start.** Spend your day at leisure or partake in one of our popular optional experiences such as a float trip down the Colourado River or an optional helicopter ride up to the top of Tower butte.

In the evening, enjoy dinner with wine at Red Heritage, a Native American Dinner Theater. (B) (DW)

### Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas.

## DAY 5 BRYCE CANYON AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS

Travel through Bryce Canyon Country on a portion of the Scenic Highway 89, recognized by National Geographic as the No. 1 Driver's Drive in the world. Also enjoy a visit to Bryce Canyon National Park and see the natural amphitheater and its famous hoodoos. (B)

### Zion National Park Lodge.

### **DAY 6** ZION NATIONAL PARK

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a Relaxed Start this morning before joining a Local Expert for a canyon tour aboard a privately chartered open-air vehicle. This afternoon, enjoy an Insight Choice. Choose to join your Travel Director for a guided hike to the Emerald Pools. Alternatively, visit the Zion Human History Museum.

Wrap up your adventure at a Highlight Dinner hosted at the lodge. (B) (DW)

### DAY 7 SALT LAKE CITY

This morning you make your way out of Zion National Park and will transfer to Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah. Your hotel is a short walk away from Temple Square, which is the headquarters of the Mormon church. In the evening join for a dinner with wine at the hotel. (B) (DW)

### Hilton Salt Lake City Centre.

### **DAY 8** JACKSON AND THE TETONS

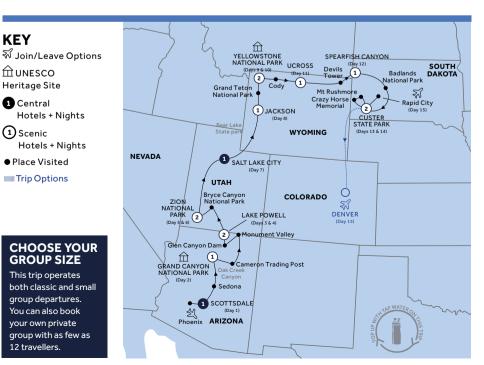
Head north across the Oregon Trail to historic Jackson, Wyoming. Here you'll be able to explore the storied town with at your own leisure. (B)

### Elk Country Inn, Jackson Hole.

### **DAY 9** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Today we enter the breathtaking Yellowstone, known for its unique geothermal activity, spectacular landscapes and abundant wildlife you are sure to spot. This historic National Park is truly a sight to behold. (B)

### Yellowstone National Park Lodge.



### DAY 10 GEYSERS AND COLOURFUL MUDPOTS

**Relaxed Start.** Walk among hot springs and watch erupting geysers on an informative stroll with your Travel Director. See Old Faithful, Hayden Valley and behold the

powerful Lower Yellowstone Falls. (B)

### DAY 11 THE RANCH AT UCROSS

Head through Shoshone National Forest to the Wild West town of Cody, and learn about America's great Western legends at the Buffalo Bill Centre of the West.

Enjoy a ranch-style Highlight Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

### Ranch at UCross, Clearmont.

## DAY 12 DEVILS TOWER INTO THE BLACK HILLS

Relaxed Start. Explore the Ranch at UCross with Insight Choice. Choose to head on a scenic country horseback ride accompanied by a Ranch Hand. Alternatively, try your hand at fishing. Make your way to Devils Tower, an astounding geological feature in the Black Hills. Next, experience Spearfish Canyon popular with wildlife enthusiasts and famous for its elvish woodland. (B)

### Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Spearfish Canyon.

### DAY 13 CUSTER AND THE WILD, WILD WEST

Today we set out to explore Badlands National Park, home to some of the most unique natural structures in the world.

End the day surrounded by more picturesque landscape in Custer State Park. (B)

### State Game Lodge, Custer State Park.

## DAY 14 MOUNTAIN MONUMENTS OF THE BLACK HILLS

**Relaxed Start.** Travel to iconic Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Join an experience at the Crazy Horse Memorialthe world's largest mountain carving created in honour of the Lakota warrior. Curated with a with a view to help protect and continue the living heritage of the Native Americans, this experience details how the memorial was carved from land sacred to the tribes. With exclusive access not available to the general public, guests ascend 563 feet (172 metres) and have the opportunity to face the monument up close.

Join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a Celebration Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

### DAY 15 DEPART RAPID CITY OR DENVER

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers. Guests flying out of Rapid City will be able to make their own way to Rapid City Regional Airport. A transfer to Denver International Airport is available for guests flying out of Denver, where arrival is at approximately 16:30. (B)



| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| MAR   03, 31        | <b>MAR</b> 22       |
| MAY   12, 19, 26    | <b>APR  </b> 05, 26 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 16     | <b>MAY  </b> 31     |
| SEP   01, 08, 22    | <b>JUN  </b> 14     |
| <b>0CT  </b> 06, 20 | <b>SEP</b> 13       |
|                     | OCT   11            |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/deepsouth

### ∧ COUNTRY ROADS ACTIVITY LEVEL: LEISURELY

12 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 18 MEALS 25 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Memphis:** Visit the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, and embark on a poignant and important tour through five centuries of the Civil Rights Movement. Pay your respects to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn about his impact on the world.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

Lafayette: Learn about joyous and eclectic Cajun and Zydeco music, a genre that stems from the ballads of the French-speaking Acadians from a local accordion maker and musician.

New Orleans: Enjoy an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Mardi Gras World, where the magic happens and the extravagant, vibrant floats are built each year. One of the Mardi Gras World certified artists will lead you through designing your very own Mardi Gras mask and creating your masterpiece, premium felt backed mask with glitter, feathers and more to take back as an eclectic memento of your time in The Big Easy.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Nashville:** Choose to visit the National Museum of African American Music. Alternatively, visit the historic Greenbrier Distillery.

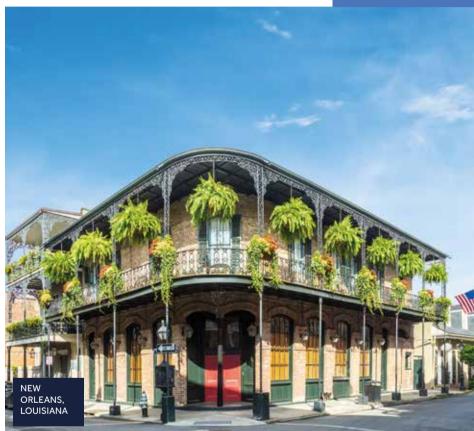
### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Nashville • Highlight Dinner in Memphis • Highlight Dinner and cooking demonstration in Greenwood • Highlight Lunch in Lafayette • Highlight Lunch and Celebration Dinner in New Orleans • Sample a Cajun Seafood Boil.

## COUNTRY ROADS OF THE DEEP SOUTH

Delve into a world of country music, blues, jazz, honky-tonks and hearty meals in the heart of the South. Like music legends Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash before you, follow the neon lights to Music City.







JAZZ MUSIC



**CRAWFISH BOIL** 

### DAY 1 ARRIVE IN NASHVILLE

Welcome to Nashville, the capital of Tennessee and the USA's glittering centre stage.

Relax and unwind before meeting your Travel Director and new friends at 18:00 for delightful Dinner with wine. (DW)

Renaissance Hotel, Nashville.

### DAY 2 TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN NASHVILLE

Pass by the city's lively honky-tonks and performers on Broadway as you embark on an orientation tour of the city. Later, visit the original home of the Grand Ole Opry - the Ryman Auditorium. In the afternoon, pay a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Tonight, attend a live broadcast of the Grand Ole Opry, the longest-running radio broadcast in US history. (B)

## DAY 3 CHOOSE YOUR NASHVILLE EXPLORATION

This morning is yours to enjoy however you please. Around lunch time, we make a stop at the Nashville Farmers Market and Market House to discover its artisanal crafts and produce. Next, explore Nashville with Insight Choice. Choose to visit Nelson's Green Brier, a local Tennessee distillery and home of the Original Tennessee Whisky for a guided tour of the distillery and a tasting of the product. Learn about the family's rich history with the spirit. Alternatively, you may decide to MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® with your visit to the National Museum of African American Music, the only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the many music genres created, influenced, and inspired by African Americans. Music lovers of all generations will be inspired and transformed by newfound appreciation of American music, all while celebrating the central role African Americans play in creating the American soundtrack.

Tonight's dinner at Puckett's Grocery and Restaurant will introduce you to the colourful flavours of Nashville such as the crabmeat cheesecake. (B) (D)

### DAY 4 HEADING BACK HOME TO MEMPHIS

This morning you'll head to Memphis. Spend the morning on a sightseeing tour of the city, followed by a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the National Civil Rights Museum. While there, you'll be guided through centuries of Civil Rights Movement history and its impact on our culture today. End your day with a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at a private evening at the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. The museum is part of The Soulsville Foundation, which aims to prepare young adults for life success and inspire future artists. (B)

### The Guest House at Graceland, Memphis.

### DAY 5 A DAY DEDICATED TO THE KING

Begin your day with a visit to Sun Studio, the "birthplace of rock and roll", where legends B.B. King, Johnny Cash and Elvis recorded. Make your way to magnificent Graceland, the former home of Elvis Presley.

Dinner this evening will be served at The Beauty Shop, a former parlour turned whimsical New American eatery where Elvis' ex-wife, Priscilla, was said to get her hair done. (B) (DW)

### DAY 6 MEMPHIS TO GREENWOOD

Travel through the Mississippi Delta down the Mississippi Blues Trail, a route that tells the stories of businessmen and women.

Your Travel Director will give you background information on Greenwood's significance in the Civil Rights Movement, being a centre for protests and voter registration struggles from 1962 to 1965. Head to the Viking Cooking School for a hot-tamales cooking class, where you'll be introduced to this regional speciality.

## Tonight, feast on a mouth-watering dinner at a local restaurant. (B) (DW)

The Alluvian, Greenwood.

### DAY 7 MOVING ON TO NATCHEZ

Learn more about Southern history and hospitality as you head to Natchez. Tour the historic antebellum mansions, and discover the preservation efforts of later generations to tell the story of African-Americans through the decades, understanding that slavery and cotton allowed plantation owners to build these mansions. Later, test your mixologist skills as you concoct a traditional Southern cocktail, the Mint Julep. In the evening, enjoy time at your leisure. (B)

### Monmouth Historic Inn and Gardens.

### DAY 8 NATCHEZ TO LAFAYETTE

Travel to Lafayette, a city at the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole country. After lunch on your own, get ready to meet your native Cajun



Local Expert for a tour of a unique and diverse ecosystem, the Atchafalaya Basin Swamp. Before spending the evening at leisure, take a deep dive into Cajun and Zydeco music with a local Cajun accordion maker and musician, who will introduce you to these eclectic and joyful genres. (B)

### DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Lafayette.

### DAY 9 LAFAYETTE FOR FOODIES

After breakfast, start the day with a crawfish farm tour. Join a Local Expert who will help you catch your lunch the old-fashioned way, using hand nets.

### Learn how to prepare a traditional boil before sitting down to enjoy a plate of crawfish, or an equally delicious seasonal speciality.

Visit the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve - Acadian Cultural Centre to learn more about the people, music, and sounds you'll experience. The Centre shares stories of the origins, migration, settlement, and contemporary culture of the Acadians (Cajuns). Meet a National Park Ranger. who will speak about the history, culture, food, and music of this region. (B) (L)

### DAY 10 WELCOME TO THE BIG EASY

New Orleans is a lively and dynamic city, known for its vibrant culture and electric jazz festivals. On the way down south, take a spicy stop at the Tabasco® Factory for a self-guided tour and discover how the world-famous red hot pepper sauce is made. A family recipe - TABASCO® Brand products are made by McIlhenny Company, founded by Edmund McIlhenny in 1868 on Avery Island, Louisiana. This afternoon, head to the Southern Food and Beverage Museum where you will enjoy a guided tour from one of SoFAB's curators and learn about the history of the food of the South. Galleries include exhibits on 13 Southern states, Popeye's Restaurant, Absinthe and Louisiana's connection to Europe, and the Museum of the American Cocktail.

### The guided tour is followed by a pop-up lunch, often hosted by the Museum's Chef in Residency Programme, with open bar. (B) (L)

### New Orleans Marriott.

### DAY 11 FESTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS

Get to know the city with a Local Expert as you discover unique and vibrant neighbourhoods. After a leisurely afternoon, pay a visit to Mardi Gras World. Enjoy an exclusive behind the scenes tour where the magic happens, and the floats are built each year. One of the Mardi Gras World certified artists will lead you through designing your very own Mardi Gras mask.

Show off the piece of art you just made by enjoying a masquerade-themed Celebration Dinner on Mardi Gras Plaza, which boasts a stunning view of the Mississippi River. (B) (DW)

### DAY 12 DEPART NEW ORLEANS

It's time to say goodbye to your fellow travellers as your adventure comes to an end. Departure to the airport will be at leisure. (B)



| 2023                    | 2024                |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 14, 21     | <b>MAY  </b> 12, 19 |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18 | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 23 |
| <b>JUL  </b> 09, 23     | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21 |
| AUG   13, 20, 27        | AUG   11, 25        |
| SEP   03, 10, 17, 24    | SEP 01,08,15,29     |
| <b>OCT  </b> 08, 15     | <b>OCT  </b> 06, 13 |
|                         |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/easterncanada

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **DYNAMIC** 

8 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 11 MEALS 7 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

GUEST REVIEW BE THE FIRST TO RATE THIS NEW TRIP.

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

Ottawa: Learn about the Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot Project, a key initiative that aims to revive the traditional arts by creating partnerships with elders and artisans who fashion mukluks and moccasins in the traditional way. After receiving the prestigious TreadRight Heritage Initiative grant, the project now endeavours to expand its partnerships, teaching opportunities and artisan support network.

### INSIGHT EXPERIENCE

**Ottawa:** Gain new culinary skills and learn more about regional cuisine with a local chef during a cooking demonstration at C'est Bon.

### TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS

**Kingston:** Wander through historic Kingstown, also known as the 'Limestone City' for its grand 19th century buildings Including churches, fortifications, and lakeside City Hall.

Montreal: Montmorency Falls is a remarkable natural wonder that towers 30 metres higher than Niagara Falls. Walk the full width of the falls on a suspension bridge with roaring water below for a unique, adrenaline filled perspective.

**Quebec City:** Discover more of Quebec's unique European charm with a Local Expert. Get an in-depth look at why Old Quebec is a UNESCO World Heritage site as you see the Latin Quarter, Plains of Abraham, City Hall, Palace Royale and views of the grand Chateau Frontenac.

## EASTERN CANADA DISCOVERY

See the top destinations on this 8-day guided tour of Canada. Stroll the urban-but-regal Queen's Park in downtown Toronto, then get up-close to the world's most famous waterfall, Niagara Falls. Wander the grand mansions of Montreal and step inside the Notre-Dame Basilica with a Local Expert; a masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture, featuring a gold and azure-hued sanctuary.





TORONTO



MONTREAL

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### DAY 1 THRILLING TORONTO

Welcome to Toronto, a vibrant city on Lake Ontario, full of fine restaurants and bars. as well as an eclectic mix of cultures. After settling in, feel free to explore the town and discover what it has to offer

### At 18:00. meet vour Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner with wine. (DW)

Westin Harbour Castle Toronto, Toronto.

### DAY 2 TORONTO AND THE THUNDERING FALLS OF NIAGARA

Visit Toronto's top sights as you see Queen's Park and the Parliament Buildings, before venturing on the quaint town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a 19th century village that offers gorgeous views of Lake Ontario. See the flowers and old-world architecture of the city before heading to the spectacular Niagara Falls. Take in this great natural wonder up-close on a catamaran, cruising right up to the base of the falls before returning to Toronto. (R)

### **DAY 3** KINGSTON AND OTTAWA

Journey to historic Kingston, otherwise known as the Limestone City and view the old buildings, churches and fortifications, with many of them being constructed from limestone itself. Continue to the Canadian capital of Ottawa where you'll join a cooking demonstration at C'est Bon. Set in their state-of-the-art kitchen facilities close to ByWard Market, you'll learn new culinary skills and discover more about local cuisine. Ingredients include Canadian staples such as maple sugar, haskaps, labrador tea and wild flowers. End the experience with a delicious three-course dinner with wine. before heading back to your hotel. (B) (DW)

### The Westin, Ottawa.

### DAY 4 CANADA'S CAPITAL TO MONTREAL

Spend the morning exploring Ottawa on a tour of the city. Then, you'll join your Indigenous Cultural

Ambassadors and experience a lively traditional Pow Wow dance. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, you'll learn about the Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot project which aims to revive the traditional arts by creating partnerships with elders and artisans. Continue to Montreal, which is in the French-speaking province of Quebec. (B)

Montreal Marriott Chateau Champlain.

### DAY 5 MONTREAL. THE ROYAL MOUNTAIN

Today you'll join a Local Expert who will guide you around Old Montreal. The narrow cobblestone streets draw you in with their lively little plazas. shops and cafes. From the grand mansions of Mount Royal to the iconic Notre-Dame Basilica, Old Montreal is a historic neighborhood that is now a major hot spot with beautiful architecture and plenty of opportunities for photo-ops. The rest of the day is free to enjoy as you please. (B)

### **DAY 6** MONTMORENCY FALLS PARK TO QUEBEC CITY

Relaxed Start. Depart Montreal and head to Montmorency Falls today.

Stop at a traditional Sugar Shack and learn how maple syrup is created and harvested. After lunch, continue onwards to Montmorency Falls Park where you will experience that natural wonder. Walk the full width of the falls on a suspension bridge, or if you're feeling adventurous, you can take the panoramic staircase down along the cliffside.

Continue on to Quebec City. (B) (L)

Hilton Quebec City.

### **DAY 7** QUINTESSENTIAL QUEBEC

Discover more of Quebec City's history and charm with a Local Expert. You'll see the Latin Quarter, Plains of Abraham, City Hall and Palace Royale, while learning about the city's long history as one of the oldest European settlements in North America. No visit to Old Quebec would be complete without



The rest of the day is yours at leisure. In the evening you'll choose from a selection of top local restaurants on a Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### **DAY 8** DEPART QUEBEC CITY

Bid "Au Revoir" to Quebec City and your fellow travellers as your tour comes to an end. Departure will be at your leisure.(B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Quebec's grand Château Frontenac. (Day 7, Quebec)

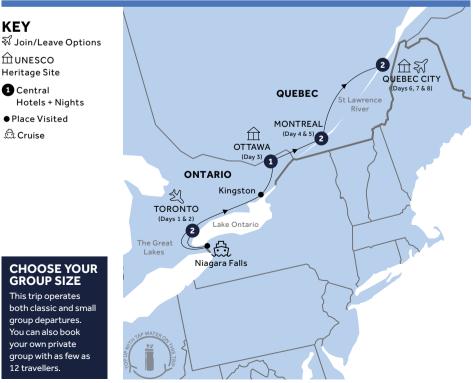


MAKE TRAVEL MATTER Learn about the Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot Project. (Day 4, Ottawa)



Montmorency Falls. (Day 6, Montmorency Falls Park)







| 2023                | 2024                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>JUN  </b> 08, 22 | <b>MAY  </b> 30     |
| <b>JUL  </b> 13, 27 | <b>JUN  </b> 06, 13 |
| AUG   17, 24        | <b>JUL  </b> 11     |
| <b>SEP</b> 07       | AUG   8, 22         |
|                     | SEP 05, 19          |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/rockies

## REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: DYNAMIC

14 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 20 MEALS 19 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### feefoee 4.6

GUEST REVIEW

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site: Discover how the Indigenous people used this 36-foot-high (11 metres) cliff to hunt stampeding herds of bison. Join a Blackfoot Elder and hear fascinating stories about the Plains people of long ago.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Athabasca Glacier: Board a specially designed Ice Explorer led by an expert driver guide to discover the frosty flow of the Athabasca Glacier before the crowds arrive. Stroll along Glacier Skywalk, a glass-floored walkway rising 918 ft (280 metres) above the Sunwapta Valley after hours.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Seattle:** Choose to tour the iconic Space Needle with views across the cityscape. Alternatively, visit the Chihuly Gardens and Glass Exhibit.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Dine-Around Evening in Victoria • Dinner with wine in Sun Peaks • Dinner with wine at Glacier View Lodge • Dinner with wine in Banff • Celebration Dinner at Ivar's in Seattle.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

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Take the ferry as you travel between Vancouver and Victoria • Cruise the serene waters of Maligne Lake • Board a historic Red Jammer bus in Glacier National Park.

## CANADIAN ROCKIES & PACIFIC COAST

"Driving onto the Athabasca Glacier on the Ice Explorer and stepping onto one of the largest ice fields in the world is a thrilling experience. Now imagine discovering the beauty and immensity of the glacier before the crowds of the day arrive- that is truly magical for our guests." - Anina, Travel Director





RED JAMMERS, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



GLACIER VIEW LODGE

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO VANCOUVER

On arrival, make your way to your hotel.

At 18:00, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner and an opportunity to mingle over wine. (DW)

The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver.

### DAY 2 CRUISE THE GULF ISLANDS TO VICTORIA

This morning, you'll visit Capilano Suspension Bridge Park for incredible views of the forest and Capilano River. Return for a tour of Vancouver, exploring Gastown and the famous First nations totem poles in Stanley park.

This afternoon, board a ferry and sail through the beautiful Gulf Islands to Vancouver Island, an idyllic place known for its fishing and art communities. (B)

### Hotel Grand Pacific, Victoria.

### **DAY 3** BUTCHART GARDENS

Start your day wandering through world renowned Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site of Canada. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Victoria, including Canada's oldest Chinatown, the bustling Inner Harbour and stately Legislative Buildings.

At night, choose from a selection of restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. (B) (DW)

### DAY 4 VICTORIA TO SUN PEAKS

This morning, cruise back to the mainland and continue on your scenic journey through British Columbia.

This evening you'll settle into your mountain retreat in Sun Peaks, followed by a dinner at one of the area's fine local restaurants. (B) (DW)

Sun Peaks Grand Hotel & Conference Centre.

## DAY 5 THE ALPINE WONDERLAND OF JASPER NATIONAL PARK

Today, your journey takes you along the legendary Yellowhead Highway towards Jasper National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

En route, a stop will be made at the Mount Robson Visitor Centre in Mount Robson Provincial Park. Arrive in the wonderland of Jasper National Park with its soothing mineral hot springs, rugged glaciers, colourful meadows, and majestic mountains. (B)

### The Crimson Jasper.

## DAY 6 EXPLORING JASPER AND THE COLUMBIA ICEFIELD

Start the day with a walk along the trails of the beautiful Maligne Canyon. Then, embark on a narrated cruise on the iconic Maligne Lake with a stop at Spirit Island (seasonal). Travel along the majestic Icefields Parkway and arrive at the Columbia Icefield.

After a welcome reception in the Moraine Lounge, head out to a special after-hours Glacier Skywalk tour, when all visitors are gone. Enjoy a guided tour of the cliff-edged glass-floor walkway.

### Tonight you'll enjoy a gourmet dinner at your lodge. (B) (DW)

### Glacier View Lodge.

## DAY 7 ICEFIELDS, GLACIERS AND LAKES TO BANFF NATIONAL PARK

**Relaxed Start.** Following a hearty breakfast, your Local Expert will escort you to a special beforehours glacier tour where you'll explore Athabasca Glacier in a massive Ice Explorer. After this morning's icy adventure, continue south to Lake Louise and admire Victoria Glacier. Continue

to Banff, your home for the next two nights. *This evening, dine in town and unwind in your* 

stunning natural surroundings. (B) (DW)

### Fairmont Banff Springs.

## DAY 8 THE UNSPOILED WILDERNESS OF BANFF NATIONAL PARK

**Relaxed Start.** Choose from several optional experiences, including a helicopter flight over the Canadian Rockies, or a ride onboard the Banff Gondola. (B)

### DAY 9 BUFFALO JUMP AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo Jump. Meet a local Blackfoot Elder who will share how the Indigenous Plains people used this cliff to hunt herds of bison.

Later, cross the U.S. border into Montana, towards Glacier National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B)

Many Glacier Hotel, Glacier National Park.

## DAY 10 GOING-TO-THE-SUN AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Board a private, historic Red Jammer bus for a journey along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. During your narrated trip, take in the stunning views from Logan Pass, before arriving at historic Lake McDonald Lodge. (B)

Lake McDonald Lodge, Glacier National Park.

### DAY 11 LAKE COEUR D'ALENE AND SPOKANE

Continue on to the beautiful shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, and arrive in Spokane to stay at The Historic Davenport, Washington State's grandest hotel. (B)

The Historic Davenport, Autograph Collection, Spokane.

## DAY 12 WONDERFUL WINES EN ROUTE TO SEATTLE

Wine connoisseurs will rejoice today, as you head through the expansive wine-producing area of Washington State. Visit Sage Cliffe Resort and Spa, an award-winning boutique winery and local favourite. You'll explore their fine wine selection with some tastings.

You'll also enjoy a Highlight Lunch here, focusing on fresh, local and artisanal ingredients.

Then it's on to Seattle for an evening of leisure at your hotel. (B) (LW)

### The Charter Hotel Seattle.

### DAY 13 THE SOARING SIGHTS OF SEATTLE

**Relaxed Start.** Join your Travel Director for an orientation tour this morning. See Puget Sound, Pioneer Square, and famous Pike Place Market. Next, enjoy an Insight Choice in Seattle. Choose to visit the iconic Space Needle. Alternatively, visit the Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit.

In the evening, join your Travel Director and fellow guests for a Celebration Dinner at Ivar's Acres of Clams on Seattle's waterfront. (B) (DW)

### DAY 14 DEPART SEATTLE

It's time to say goodbye to Seattle as your trip comes to an end. Departure to the Seattle SeaTac International Airport will be at leisure. (B)





| 2023                       | 2024                         |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| SEP   17, 18, 19, 21,      | SEP   15, 16, 20, 21,        |
| 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28,    | 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30       |
| 29, 30                     | <b>OCT</b>   04, 05, 06, 07, |
| <b>OCT</b> 01, 02, 03, 07, | 12, 13, 14, 18, 19           |
| 08,09,13,14,15,16          |                              |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/fallfoliage

## REGIONAL JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

8 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 12 MEALS 6 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**North Conway:** Learn about the wildlife and ecology of the North Woods with expert naturalist Chris Lewey.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

**Stockbridge:** Choose a guided tour of Chesterwood, the former summer home, studio and gardens of America's foremost 20th century public sculptor, Daniel Chester French. Alternatively, travel west for a visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Lively Welcome Dinner in Boston • Highlight Dinner at the Austrian-style Trapp Family Lodge and Von Trapp Brewery • Celebration Dinner with lobster in Portland.

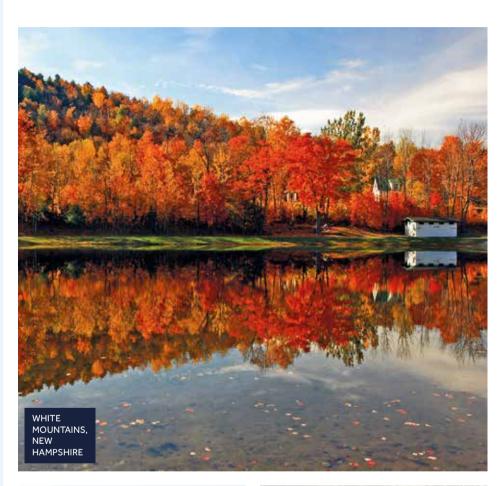
### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

**Boston:** Explore the great city of Boston, with your Travel Director and learn about its transformative past. You'll follow part of the red-brick Freedom Trail that brings the story of the American Revolution to life. Journeying to other historically significant sights that include the Boston Common, the Old Corner Bookstore and the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. View the colourful neighborhood of Back Bay and the lively North End, otherwise known as Boston's Little Italy.

**North Conway:** Enjoy a scenic hike to Diana's Baths, which features a small series of captivating cascading waterfalls. This historic site is within the White Mountain National Forest and easy paced.

## NEW ENGLAND'S FALL FOLIAGE

"I love seeing guests come to the realisation that no pictures or videos could prepare them for the reality of nature's drama when surrounded by the majesty of the Fall landscapes in New England." - Manuel, Travel Director





TRAPP FAMILY LODGE



**BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM** 

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### **DAY 1** WELCOME TO BOSTON

Affectionately known as Beantown, this revolutionary city is one of the oldest in the United States

After settling in. perhaps take a stroll to Downtown Crossing or historic Faneuil Hall. For those looking to shop, Quincy Market offers big brands and local products, set indoors and surrounding the columns of a regal 19th century building.

At 18:00, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner with wine and an opportunity to mingle with fellow quests at your hotel. (DW)

### Hyatt Regency Boston.

### **DAY 2** BEANTOWN TO SARATOGA SPRINGS

Today you'll discover some of Boston's most famous sights as you delve into the city's transformative past.

You'll follow part of the red-brick Freedom Trail brings the story of the American Revolution to life. Sights include Beacon Hill, Newbury Street, Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the Old South Meeting House

This afternoon, explore Stockbridge with an Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum, home to the largest and most significant collection of original Rockwell art. Alternatively, choose to take a guided tour of Chesterwood, the former summer home and studio of renowned 20th century sculptor Daniel Chester French. Travel on through the rolling hills of the Berkshires and onto your upstate New York hotel, situated within the Saratoga Spa State Park. (B) (DW)

### The Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs.

### DAY 3 THE LEGENDS OF THE FALL AND STOWE

Journey through the bronze fall foliage of Vermont. Visit the Vermont Country Store for a unique shopping experience - you'll step back into history with their nostalgic assortment of products. Explore the Rockefellers' renowned Billings Farm and Museum, a captivating working dairy and farm life museum, followed by a stop in the quintessential Vermont village of Woodstock with its picturesque, covered bridge.

**KEY** 

Central

Place Visited

12 travellers.

End your day in the northern Vermont town of Stowe, home to the breathtaking alpine setting that attracted the real Von Trapp family of "The Sound of Music" fame in the late 1940s.

Enjoy Austrian-style lagers during your Highlight Dinner at Bierhall Restaurant. (B) (DW)

Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe,

**DAY 4** A TASTE OF VERMONT Relaxed Start. Enjoy Vermont's beautiful scenery ablaze with fall's golden red colours.

Visit Lake Champlain Chocolates for chocolate and local ice cream tasting. Next, you'll travel to Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, where maple syrup is "tapped" from the trees. Taste a Vermont tradition, the unusually named 'sugar on snow', a combination of maple syrup and packed snow. This tasty treat is traditionally served with a doughnut and pickle. Return to the enchanting town of Stowe where the rest of the day is yours. From wandering its quaint streets to hiking in the woods or relaxing back at your lodge, make the most of your last evening at this mountain resort. (B)

### **DAY 5** NORTH CONWAY AND THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

Move on to Vermont's pretty capital, Montpelier. Journey to New Hampshire's White Mountains and enter striking Franconia Notch.

Take a scenic ride on the Gondola SkyRide at Loon Mountain Resort. On a clear day, you'll have superb panoramic views of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New York and Canada.

Later, journey through the dazzling crimson and orange hues of the famed Kancamagus Scenic Byway to North Conway. This spectacular section of Route 112 is unspoiled by industry and boasts 34.5 miles of untouched natural beauty. (B) (DW)

### North Conway Grand Hotel, North Conway.

### DAY 6 SIGHTSEEING IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

Relaxed Start. In the morning, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you enjoy an insightful talk by a naturalist on the North Woods' wildlife and ecology.

Expert Chris Lewey is the Executive Director and Founder of Raven Interpretive Programmes. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies and will be on hand to answer any questions you might have. Then, more spectacular fall foliage awaits as you journey through Crawford Notch, an arresting pass through the White Mountains. Stop for pictures at the Silver Cascade Waterfall and Bretton Woods, which offers stunning views of Mount Washington, the tallest peak in the northeast at 6,288 feet (1,917 metres). Your Travel Director will guide you on a scenic hike to Diana's Baths, which features a series of small cascading waterfalls. Return to your hotel where you can enjoy an evening at leisure. (B)

### **DAY 7** THE RUGGED MAINE COAST

Relaxed Start. Cross from New Hampshire into Maine this morning as you visit the jagged coastline. This popular landmark is one of the most visited lighthouses in the country and is the oldest lighthouse in the state. Explore the historic town of Cape Elizabeth, then spend the rest of your afternoon at leisure.

In the evening, enjoy a delicious Celebration Dinner featuring Maine lobster with your fellow travellers. (B) (DW)

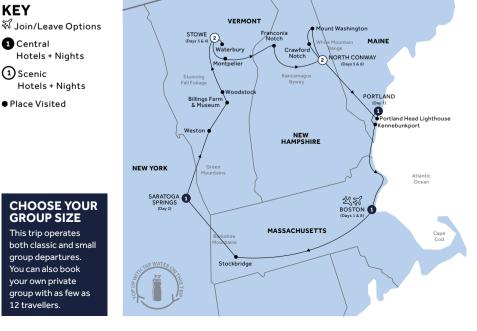
Westin Portland Harbourview, Portland.

### **DAY 8** BACK TO BOSTON

Known for its sandy beaches, Kennebunkport is a year-round coastal destination that houses the rich and famous, even serving as the summer retreat of former President George H.W. Bush. Travel along Ocean Drive with more stunning views of the Maine coastline, before driving back to Boston. Guests departing Boston will arrive at Boston Logan International Airport at 12:30. Those extending their stay will return to the Hyatt Regency Boston hotel. (B)



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT Covered bridge, Kancamagus Scenic Byway. (Day 5, New Hampshire)





| 2023                        | 2024                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>MAY  </b> 14, 21         | <b>MAY  </b> 12, 19  |
| <b>JUN  </b> 04, 11, 18     | <b>JUN  </b> 02, 23  |
| <b>JUL  </b> 09, 23         | <b>JUL  </b> 07, 21  |
| AUG   13, 20, 27            | AUG   11, 25         |
| <b>SEP  </b> 03, 10, 17, 24 | SEP   01, 08, 15, 29 |
| <b>OCT  </b> 08, 15         | <b>OCT  </b> 06, 13  |

For more details, including all dates, prices and special offers, visit insightvacations.com/easterncanada

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED** 

16 DAYS 2 COUNTRIES 21 MEALS 16 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefo<sup>ee</sup> 4.3<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Ottawa: Learn about the Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot Project, a key initiative that aims to revive the traditional arts by creating partnerships with Elders and artisans who fashion mukluks and moccasins in the traditional way. After receiving the prestigious TreadRight Heritage Initiative grant, the project now endeavours to expand its partnerships, teaching opportunities and artisan support network.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCE**

**Ottawa:** Gain new culinary skills and learn more about regional cuisine with a local chef during a cooking demonstration at C'est Bon Cooking School.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

New York City: Choose to visit the newly constructed Summit One Vanderbilt. Showcasing amazing views of the New York City skyline, especially the Chrysler Building, Summit One has four levels of multi-sensory space that represent art and design. Alternatively, choose to explore Central Park on a scenic bike ride.

### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

Welcome Dinner in Toronto • Cooking Demonstration and three-course Highlight Dinner in Ottawa • Dine-Around Evening in Quebec • Highlight Dinner with lobster in Bar Harbour • Celebration Dinner in Washington, D.C.

### **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHTS**

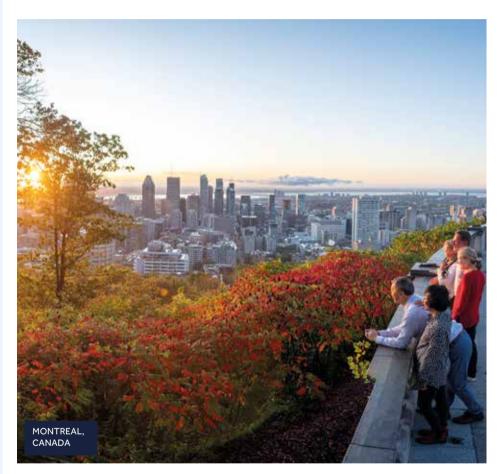
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Embark on a cruise to the base of Niagara Falls. Visit historic Kingston • Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal • Ile d'Orleans • Acadia National Park • Boston's Freedom Trail • Times Square in NYC • Philadelphia's Liberty Bell.

City tours of Montreal, Quebec City and New York City with Local Experts; Washington, D.C.

## BEST OF EASTERN CANADA & USA

Uncover the best of Eastern Canada and the USA as you explore these diverse countries in style. From delicious regional delicacies such as maple syrup at a traditional Sugar Shack, to the sweeping skylines of New York City, you'll be taken aback by Canada's natural wonder and the U.S.'s revolutionary history.





LOBSTER DINNER



NIAGARA FALLS

### DAY 1 THRILLING TORONTO

Welcome to Toronto, a vibrant city on Lake Ontario, full of fine restaurants and bars, as well as an eclectic mix of cultures. After settling in, feel free to explore the town and discover what it has to offer.

## At 18:00, meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner with wine (DW)

### Hilton Toronto.

## DAY 2 TORONTO AND THE THUNDERING FALLS OF NIAGARA

Visit Toronto's top sights as you see Queen's Park and the Parliament Buildings, before venturing on the quaint town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a 19th century village that offers gorgeous views of Lake Ontario. See the flowers and old-world architecture of the city before heading to the spectacular Niagara Falls. Take in this great natural wonder up-close on a catamaran, cruising right up to the base of the falls before returning to Toronto. (B)

### DAY 3 KINGSTON AND OTTAWA

Journey to historic Kingston, otherwise known as the Limestone City. Here you'll view the cities storied buildings, churches and fortifications, many of which being constructed from limestone itself.

Continue to the Canadian capital of Ottawa where you'll join a cooking demonstration at C'est Bon. Set in their state-of-the-art kitchen facilities close to ByWard Market, you'll learn new culinary skills and discover more about local cuisine. Ingredients include Canadian staples such as maple sugar, haskaps, labrador tea and wild flowers. End the experience with a delicious three-course dinner with wine, before heading back to your hotel. (B) (DW)

### The Westin, Ottawa.

### DAY 4 CANADA'S CAPITAL TO MONTREAL

Spend the morning exploring Ottawa on a tour of the city. Then, you'll join your Indigenous Cultural Ambassadors and experience a lively traditional Pow Wow dance. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, you'll learn about the Manitobah Mukluks Storyboot Project, which supports the revival of Indigenous art through partnerships and teaching. Continue to Montreal, which is in the French-speaking province of Quebec. (B)

### Hotel Bonaventure Montreal.



Today you'll join a Local Expert who will guide you around Old Montreal. The narrow cobblestone streets draw you in with their lively little plazas, shops and cafes. From the grand mansions of Mount Royal to the iconic Notre-Dame Basilica, Old Montreal is a historic neighbourhood that is now a major hot spot with beautiful architecture and plenty of opportunities for photo-ops. The rest of the day is free to enjoy as you please. (B)

### DAY 6 MONTMORENCY FALLS PARK TO QUEBEC CITY

**Relaxed Start.** Depart Montreal and head to Montmorency Falls today.

### Stop at a traditional Sugar Shack and learn how maple syrup is harvested and prepared while enjoying the scenery.

After lunch, continue onwards to Montmorency Falls Park where you will experience that natural wonder that towers 272 feet (84 m) tall over the Saint Lawrence River. Walk the full width of the falls on a suspension bridge between both sides of the park, or if you are feeling adventurous, you can take the panoramic staircase down along the cliffside. After taking plenty of pictures, you will continue to Quebec City. (B) (L)

### Hilton Quebec City.

### DAY 7 QUINTESSENTIAL QUEBEC

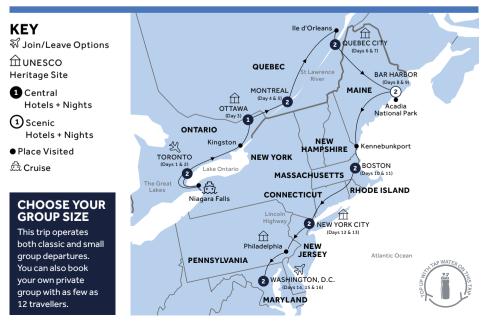
Discover more of Quebec City's history and charm with a Local Expert. You'll see the Latin Quarter, Plains of Abraham, City Hall and Palace Royale, while learning about the city's long history as one of the oldest European settlements in North America. No visit to Old Quebec would be complete without seeing the grand hotel Château Frontenac, designated a National Historic Site of Canada as it was one of the first grand railway hotels completed in Canada. The rest of the day is yours at leisure.

### This evening join your new friends for a special Highlight Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

### DAY 8 QUEBEC TO BAR HARBOR

Bid "Au Revoir" to Quebec as you cross the U.S. border and travel toward Mount Desert Island on the Atlantic Coast. (B)  $\,$ 

### Harborside Hotel Spa & Marina, Bar Harbor.



### DAY 9 EXPLORE ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Take in the natural beauty of Acadia National Park, with its dramatic rocky shoreline. You'll also have time to explore Bar Harbour.

The evening is saved for a delectable Highlight Dinner with your new friends, as you feast on authentic Maine lobster. (B) (D)

### DAY 10 COASTAL NEW ENGLAND TO BOSTON

Follow the rocky Maine shoreline, and stop in picturesque Kennebunkport. (B)

### Hyatt Regency Boston.

### DAY 11 BOSTON, THE CRADLE OF LIBERTY

Join your Travel Director as they guide you through parts of the Freedom Trail and share its historic significance. (B)

### DAY 12 A BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

Follow the bright lights to New York City. Explore New York City with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Top of the Summit One Vanderbilt with stunning views of the New York skyline. Alternatively, take a scenic bike tour of Central Park and explore its iconic sights. (B)

### New York Marriott Marquis.

### **DAY 13** A MANHATTAN MASTERPIECE

**Relaxed Start.** Explore the 'City that Never Sleeps' with your Local Expert, before heading out on your own. (B)

### DAY 14 LIBERTY IN PHILADELPHIA AND D.C.

**Relaxed Start.** Travel to Pennsylvania's largest city, Philadelphia.

Explore Independence National Historic Park and visit the Liberty Bell.

Journey to Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Perhaps join an optional nighttime illumination tour to see the capital's sights in a new light. (B)

### Melrose Georgetown Hotel, Washington, D.C.

### DAY 15 WASHINGTON, D.C. SIGHTSEEING AND LEISURE TIME

Immerse yourself on a sightseeing tour and view the White House, the striking Washington Monument, sprawling National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial. Next, visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the newest member of the Smithsonian Institution and the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture.

The rest of the day is at leisure. Perhaps make a visit to the National Air and Space Museum, or the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

### Join your Travel Director and fellow guests for a Celebration Dinner and toast to new friends and fantastic memories. (B) (DW)

### DAY 16 DEPART WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the morning, depart at leisure to Dulles International Airport or Reagan National Airport for your flight home.

Alternatively, extend your stay at your own pleasure. (B)



| 2023          | 2024                |
|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>JAN</b> 14 | <b>JAN  </b> 27     |
| FEB 11, 25    | FEB   10, 24        |
| MAR 18,25     | <b>MAR  </b> 09     |
| APR 22        | <b>APR</b> 20       |
| MAY 13        | MAY 11              |
| JUN 17        | <b>JUN </b> 15      |
| JUL 15        | <b>JUL</b>  13      |
| AUG 26        | AUG   10            |
| SEP 23        | SEP   07, 21        |
| OCT 21        | <b>OCT  </b> 19     |
| <b>NOV</b> 11 | <b>NOV  </b> 02, 09 |
| DEC 02        | <b>DEC</b>  07      |
|               |                     |

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit insightvacations.com/hawaiibig

A DISCOVERY JOURNEY ACTIVITY LEVEL: BALANCED

10 DAYS 1 COUNTRY 16 MEALS 11 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

feefoes 5<sup>/5</sup> GUEST REVIEW

### **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®**

**Oahu:** MAKE TRAVEL MATTER<sup>®</sup> as you join an eco-tour with your Local Expert in the Hawaiian Legacy Forest and plant a native Milo tree contributing to the healing of the local ecosystem.

### **INSIGHT EXPERIENCES**

**Pearl Harbour:** Explore the Pearl Harbour National Memorial and visit the USS Arizona Memorial- the final resting place of 1,102 sailors and marines.

**Oahu:** On your journey around Oahu take in epic views from Pali Lookout. Travel beneath the towering Ko'olau Mountains and along the rugged Windward Coast. Reach Sunset Beach and visit Haleiwa, the social and artistic hub of the North Shore.

### **INSIGHT CHOICE**

Maui: Explore Maui with Insight Choice. Choose to visit Haleakalā National Park offering an astonishing volcanic landscape. Alternatively, set sail to the crescent-shaped Molokini island for a memorable snorkeling trip.

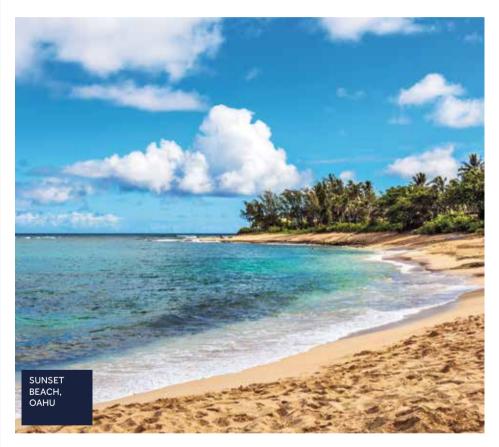
### **AUTHENTIC DINING**

230

Welcome dinner in Waikiki • Farm-to-table Highlight Lunch on Oahu • Dine-Around Evening on Maui • Farm-to-table Highlight Lunch on Maui • Oceanfront Celebration Dinner on Hawaii.

## HAWAII WITH OAHU, MAUI & THE BIG ISLAND

"I love taking visitors to the North Shore of Oahu and showing them another side of the island that goes beyond the expected. Known as an artist enclave and surfer's paradise, this corner of Hawaii also offers some of the most breath-taking sunsets in the world." – Matthew, Travel Director





SNORKELING



LUAU, MAUI

### DAY 1 ALOHA HAWAII

After your arrival at Honolulu Airport, the traditional lei greeting kicks off your Hawaii vacation. Your hotel during your time on Oahu was the setting for Blue Hawaii, Elvis Presley's 1961 movie and it is the birthplace of the legendary cocktail of the same name.

Tonight, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner with the Pacific Ocean as your backdrop. (DW)

### Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, Oahu.

### DAY 2 PEARL HARBOUR

This morning we visit the Pearl Harbour National Memorial commemorating the tragic day of December 7th 1941. Walk through the Visitor Centre and take a short boat ride to the USS Arizona Memorial, the final resting place of 1,102 sailors and marines. USS Arizona tickets are subject to NPS availability not known till day before visit. Spend time at the superb visitor centre and explore exhibits that recount the events that led the US to join World War II.

From here see the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetrey of the Pacific. It honours all those who served in the US Armed Forces and lost their lives during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Return to Waikiki and spend the rest of your day at leisure. (B)

### DAY 3 A TRIP AROUND OAHU

Set out to explore Oahu on an exciting island tour. Take in the epic views from Pali Lookout towards the Kaneohe Bay and the Windward Coast. The valley below was the scene of a bloody battle in 1795 when King Kamehameha I extended his rule over the island with an army of 10,000 men. Journey beneath the towering Ko'olau Cliffs and along the rugged coastline. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you join an eco-tour with your Local Expert in the Hawaiian Legacy Forest and plant a native Milo tree contributing to the healing of the local ecosystem.

Delve into an al fresco, sustainably sourced picnic lunch while enjoying epic views of the North Shore and the legacy forest.

**KEY** 

your own private

group with as few as 12 travellers.

Continue to Sunset Beach where in the winter months waves can reach 30ft making it a favourite spot among big wave surfers worldwide. Visit Haleiwa, the social and artistic hub of the North Shore. Grab some shaved ice and stroll among small boutiques and plantation-era buildings to soak up the laid-back ambiance. Finally, return to Waikiki after your eventful day and enjoy your evening at leisure. (B) (L)

### DAY 4 MAUI, THE VALLEY ISLE

Take a short flight to Kahului on Maui. This slice of Hawaiian island paradise offers magnificent nature and a wide variety of activities. Visit the aweinspiring lao Valley State Park and see the 1,200foot landmark lao Needle. This green-mantled rock outcropping overlooks sacred lands and was used as a burial site for Hawaii's chiefs for centuries. Journey to Lahaina, once a busy whaling port and plantation settlement. Join your Travel Director for a walk through the Historic District before continuing to your oceanfront resort.

In the evening you are invited to choose your own dining experience from a selection of restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. Your options include a magical evening at the Wailele Luau for a taste of traditional Polynesian cuisine, dance and storytelling, or one of the resort's other acclaimed restaurants. (B) (DW)

### The Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Ka'anapali Beach, Maui.

### DAY 5 UPCOUNTRY MAUI

**Relaxed Start.** This morning, head to Upcountry Maui and discover a different face of the island. Visit one of the last working pineapple farms with a fun and knowledgeable Local Expert. Discover the deep impact these plantations had on the islands and sample some of the extra sweet Maui Gold variant. At its peak, Hawaii produced 75% of the world's pineapples and the tropical fruit became a symbol for the state.

Next we indulge in a Farm-to-Table lunch at the Hali'imaile General Store. Originally a plantation shop in the early 20th century, the restaurant is known for its outstanding island cuisine. Return to your resort and spend the evening at your leisure. (B) (L)

### DAY 6 INSIGHT CHOICE IN MAUI

Explore Maui with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Haleakalā National Park offering an astonishing volcanic landscape. Hear the Hawaiian legends about the dormant volcano and see the unique Haleakalā Silversword plant.

Alternatively, set sail to the crescent shaped Molokini island for a memorable snorkelling trip. Marvel at the colourful tropical fish and enjoy a light lunch on board.

Tonight, get together with your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

### DAY 7 TO THE BIG ISLAND

Take a short flight to Hawai'i, the largest island of the archipelago. Upon arrival, spend time in easy-going Kailua-Kona, once the home of Kamehameha I, Hawaii's great ruler. Travel from the beach to the coffee growing area of Kona and join a Local Expert to learn about Kona coffee. Enjoy a tasting of this gourmet speciality that only grows on the slopes of two local active volcanoes. See native plants, fruits and the organic coffee fields on your tour around the plantation. Continue to your luxurious resort accommodation and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure. (B)

### Hilton Waikoloa Village.

### DAY 8 THE VOLCANOES OF HAWAII

Rise early for an unforgettable trip around the island. Journey through the historic Parker Ranch, a huge working cattle farm spread across 130,000 acres. Marvel at the beauty of the Hamakua Coast as you travel past lush tropical rainforests and tranquil green valleys. After a luscious lunch enter the UNESCO World Heritage listed Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Take the stunning Crater Rim Drive around the Kilauea Caldera and walk through the otherworldly Thurston Lava Tube. Hear the legends of Pele, the goddess of volcanoes and fire and the creator of the Hawaiian Islands. Stop by the magical Rainbow Falls on your way back to your resort. (B) (L)

### DAY 9 A DAY TO RELAX

**Relaxed Start.** Spend the day on island time and relax under the swaying palms. Lounge by the pool, enjoy a spa treatment, or snorkel in the local lagoon looking for the rare green sea turtles that call these waters home.

Tonight, come together at an oceanfront restaurant for a Celebration Dinner and toast to your travels. (B) (DW)

### DAY 10 FAREWELL HAWAII

Bid farewell to your fellow travellers and new friends and depart at leisure to the Kona airport filled with new memories and stories. (B)





# Tailor-Made Group Travel

ith many decades in guided travel, we know how to tailor - make a completely stress - free vacation, regardless of your budget, destination or desired inclusions. Perhaps you would like to savour a gourmet European adventure or feel the adrenalin on a sporting trip? Maybe you'd prefer a religious pilgrimage route or to follow in the footsteps of renowned artists? With our connections and travel expertise, we can provide an unforgettable vacation, along with a dedicated Travel Director to ensure everything goes smoothly.

### Leave everything to us

From the popular to the quirky, we've seen it all. We've loved taking guests to destinations across the globe, where they have enjoyed unique experiences, including following foodie trails in Italy, and touring dairy farms in Ireland. Anything is possible!

We'll supply you with a range of options and work with you and your travel agent to build your trip from the ground up. Our excellent customer service delivered by groups teams across the globe in a timezone convenient to you makes planning seamless and hassle-free, and keeps our loyal travellers coming back.



## Tailored to You

Depending on your group's particular interests or preferences, we can create unforgettable customised group journeys around a wide variety of themes, places or events:

- Art and history
- Food and wine
- Gardening
- Military and battlefields
- Sport

For more details, visit: insightvacations.com/groups

- Wellness
- Religion and faith
- Schools
- Chelsea Flower Show
- Photography



## SPECIAL INTEREST TRIPS

One-of-a-kind departures for the curious mind — including horticultural voyages, literary trails and unmissable European festivals and celebrations.

### EUROPEAN AFFAIR & CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

10 DAYS • Explore the famous Chelsea Flower Show • Enjoy a relaxing canal cruise in Bruges • Visit Monet's garden in Giverny. Departs: 26 May 2023

### INSPIRING ICELAND, A WOMEN-ONLY TOUR

10 DAYS • Meet horse breeders, biologists and master brewers • Taste spirulina ice cream in Lake Mývatn and learn about the production of algae • All along the way, meet passionate and creative women and share their stories. Departs: 07 Jul, 08 Sep 2023

### CHELSEA FLOWER & SHOW SPRINGTIME IN THE ALPS

18 DAYS • Visit Keukenhof and the Chelsea Flower Show • Visit Versailles Palace and Gardens • Visit Borromeo Palace and gardens. Departs: 09 & 11 May 2023

### AN ART LOVERS TASTE OF EUROPE

15 DAYS • Step inside the Uffizzi Gallery • Admire the works of Van Gogh in Amsterdam • Witness the genius of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. Departs: 14 May & 10 Sep 2023

### OKTOBERFEST, THE GERMANIC EXPERIENCE

11 DAYS • Celebrate Oktoberfest in the exclusive Ochsenbraterei Tent • Meet a descendent of The Red Baron. Departs: 17 Sep 2023

## **BRITISH GARDENS & THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW**

15 DAYS • Discover the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew • Isle of Wight Excursion • Explore the world famous Chelsea Flower Show. Departs: 14 & 15 May 2023



Scan this code with the camera on your smart phone to view more of our special interest trips.

### **INSIGHT VACATIONS** 233

### BOOKING CONDITIONS

Very Important: The information below is a summary of the booking conditions as at the date of the production of this brochure and are for guidance only. The 'Full Booking Conditions' can be found on our website and form the legal agreement between us and you as our guest. If there is any conflict between the information below and the Full Booking Conditions, the Full Booking Conditions shall prevail. Booking Conditions are regularly updated and may have changed since this brochure was printed.

| PAYMENTANDCANCELL | ATION TABL | F (THF 'TARI |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|

| PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION TABLE (THE TABLE)   |                                      |         |              |  |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|--|---|
|  |                                      | Level 1 | Level 2      | Extra Accommodation                          | Chargeable Transfers                    |
|  | Deposit due per person               | \$200   | \$350        | No additional deposit required               | No additional deposit required          |
|  | Final payment due (before departure) | 60 days | 90 days      | In accordance with guided holiday            | In accordance with guided holiday       |
| No. of days (before travel) Cancellation Charges (per person) if you cancel your holiday |                                      |         | your holiday |  |   |
|  | 90 days and over                     | Deposit | Deposit      | \$35   | \$35                                    |
|  | 89 - 60 days                         | Deposit | 30%          | \$35   | \$35                                    |
|  | 59 - 16 days                         | 30%     | 60%          | Higher of \$35 or 25% of accommodation price | Higher of \$35 or 25% of transfer price |
|  | 15 - 8 days                          | 50%     | 90%          | Higher of \$35 or 30% of accommodation price | Higher of \$35 or 30% of transfer price |
|  | 7-1 days                             | 90%     | 100%         | 100% of accommodation price                  | 100% of transfer price                  |
|  | Departure Day/No show                | 100%    | 100%         | 100% of accommodation price                  | 100% of transfer price                  |
|  |                                      |         |              |  |   |

### We offer Gold Seal Protection which may reduce your cancellation fees, please see Important Information on our website for details of the Gold Seal Protection.

Level 1: Cancellation fees are the minimum cancellation fee charged and is used unless the trip is described as Level 2.

Level 2: These trips are generally trips which include cruise/ferry, train or intra-trip

### A full list of all trips and levels can be found at www.insightvacations.com.

YOUR HOLIDAY BOOKING For the purposes of this document reference to 'you' or 'your' includes all guests in the party. Travel Corporation NZ Limited is the 'Sales Company'. The 'Operator' for the trips will be as described in the table below. Collectively these companies are

| relefied to as insight, of the Frontier.           |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Destination  | Operator   |  |
| Europe and Britain, Africa, Asia                   | Insight Vacations Limited  |  |
| USA & Canada, Central America and<br>South America | Destination America  |  |
| Australia and New Zealand                          | AAT Kings Tours Pty Limited and<br>Travel Corporation NZ Limited |  |

Your agreement is with Insight and a contract is formed when you make a reservation with us that we accept. Enrolment in and payment for a guided trip shall constitute acceptance by the guest of the terms and conditions in this document. These cannot be varied except in writing by an officer of the Company. All contracts with Insight are made subject to the terms of these booking conditions.

An contracts with insignt are made subject to the terms of these booking contautors. Security: Security is a major concern to all of us and the situation globally is constantly changing. Events around the world, coupled with the "Travel Advisories" put out by various governments, may at times necessitate changes to the accommodations and timerary or even trip cancellation. You must accept these risks involved in travel to any country that may experience security difficulties and accept responsibility for vour own travel decisions

Tavel Issuance: Travel insurance is highly recommended for all guests covering all applicable dates of travel with the Provider. This insurance should cover: trip interruption, personal injury, medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation cover including during pandemic events. The choice of insurer is yours.

The availability of travel insurance and extent of cover is constantly changing, please The orbital of the second seco

The Provider cannot be held responsible for your failure to obtain insurance which is appropriate, and we recommend you purchase your insurance at the time of, or soon after, booking your trip. The Provider will not be held liable for any costs incurred by the guest resulting from their failure to obtain adequate travel insurance.

COVID-19: COVID 19 means coronavirus disease, an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and all variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. The Provider may require proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 tests, with the situation changing rapidly please refer to **www.insightvacations.com/fags** for current requirements and further information relating to COVID-19. Please also familiarise yourself with the advice from your national authority for overseas travel before departing.

COVID-19 requirements vary from country to country and region to region and circumstances may requires us to ask all travellers to be vaccinated and provide evidence of vaccination, irrespective of the destinations' vaccine requirements. Definition of fully vaccinated may include booster doses and/or time elapsed since last dose received. Evidence of negative COVID-19 tests may also be required. Airlines, hotels, excursion providers and other transport providers may also have separate requirements. It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply at all times with these requirements. No refunds will be given if you are unable to undertake some or all of your holiday due to your failure to comply with these requirements, or if you fail any tests, checks or other measures imposed by a supplier or necessary for by to travel. You also acknowledge that certain countries may impose quarantine or self-isolation measures upon travellers, whether in the place of the destination or upon return and that such requirements are subject to change, and may be imposed on short notice. You will be responsible for any resulting additional costs including travel and accommodation.

We ask that you please take personal responsibility for your wellbeing. This begins with packing any personal protective equipment and sanitisers you require. Please adopt physical distancing and hygiene practices throughout your pre-trip travel arrangements and follow all health instructions whether physical signage, or requests from our professional staff once you are travelling with us. To travel with us you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Full details of hydroge protections can be found an expression. hygiene protocols can be found on our website.

If, within 14 days of your departure, you or anyone in your booking party:

- test positive for COVID-19 and have to quarantine for a period of time, or
- · are notified or otherwise become aware that you have, or suspect you may have, come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (or where they otherwise suspect they may have COVID-19) and have to self-isolate for a period of time

you must notify us immediately. In the event that you are unable to travel with us our cancellation charges may apply in accordance with our cancellation procedure.

If this happens whilst you are on your holiday, please notify us without delay and we will provide such reasonable assistance as we can in the circumstances. However we will not be responsible for covering the cost of any curtailment of your holiday, missed transport arrangements, additional accommodation required, or other associated costs incurred by you. You must ensure you have travel insurance which covers these costs

Force Majeure: Force Majeure Event means any event or circumstance beyond the control of the Provider, which has the effect of preventing, restricting, or changing the nature of the products and services sold to you including but not limited to: (a) an at of god (such as earthquake, flood, fire, explosion, landslide, lightning, action an act of god god is denirquare, how, in e, explosion, iaidaice, inglining, action of the elements, force of nature, washout, typhoon, hurricane, cyclone, tsunami, storm or storm warning or natural disaster); (b) industrial disputes, work ban or other labour dispute or difficulty; (c) acts of terrorism, political unrest, war or threat of war, notes a could strike (d) failure or delays to scheduled transportation and the closure of airports or ports; (e) pandemic, epidemic or health risk including COVID-19; (f) all governmental and administrative actions, guidance and measures in any territory (including closure of borders and travel warnings and restrictions)

### **RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS**

Your trip will be confirmed after receipt of a non-refundable deposit as detailed in the Table

Air-inclusive bookings may require an additional non-refundable deposit or payment in full at the time of booking, see Flight Reservations, Deposits and Cancellation section below

Final payment for your trip reservation will be due prior to departure no later than as detailed in the Table

#### **BOOKING CHANGES**

Name Changes: The Provider does not charge for name corrections, however where third party costs are incurred these will be passed on to the quest.

Other Booking Changes: The Provider does not charge for minor booking changes however where third party costs are incurred these will be passed on to the quest. A change of trip date or itinerary after final payment is due (see Table) will be treated as a cancellation

#### CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

Cancellation by Traveller: Travel arrangements for any member of the party may be cancelled at any time by written notice by the person who made the booking. If notice of cancellation is received by the Provider before final payment is due (see Table), the deposit will be retained. If cancellation is made after final payment is due cancellation fees will apply (see Table). Please also refer to Air Changes or Cancellation Section where applicable.

All cancellation fees as per the Table are additional to any cancellation fees or other charges that may be levied by your Travel Agent.

Gold Seal Protection premiums are non-refundable.

Cancellation by the Provider: The Provider reserves the right, to modify or cancel any trip (definite or not), accommodation, in-destination activity or arrangement at any time. Cancellation due to Failure to Pay

If full payment is not received by the due date (see Table), the Provider has the right to cancel your reservation and no refund will be made. The Provider will not be responsible for lost reservations.

#### **Cancellation due to Force Majeure Events**

If the Provider cancels a trip as a result of a Force Majeure Event, a future travel credit (FTC) to the value of funds paid to date less any third-party costs incurred will be provided. All FTCs will be valid for 24 months from date of issue.

. Where a trip is terminated mid-trip due to a Force Majeure Event, if we provide you with any alternative services or assistance (such as hotels or travel) then you agr to pay for these costs.

#### Cancellation due to Events other than Force Majeure Events

If the cancellation by the Provider is not as a result of a Force Majeure Event, the Provider will provide an alternative comparable trip (if available). If an alternative is not available than a refind will be made. The Provider is not liable for any cancellation or change cost or penalties incurred on other travel arrangements, including air travel, that may be affected thereby.

The Provider is not responsible for other travel arrangements that you or your party have made outside the Provider and which are affected by our cancellations

### FLIGHT RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS

Reservations/Ticketing: Air-inclusive bookings and some intra-trip flights require an additional non-refundable deposit at time of booking which may be up to 100%. If additional non-redundable deposit at unite of booking which may be up to horse. In an air reservation is made by the Provider, full gargment may be required for your airfare at the time of booking. On receipt of full air payment your airfare, taxes and fuel surcharges are final. This will be regardless of future price fluctuations up or down. When booking a trip including flights, you will be required, at time of booking to provide us the full name as detailed on the passport, passport number, nationality, date, and place of issue of each guest. The Provider does not hold an allocation of air seast and all flight reservations are made on request and are subject to the terms an seals and all high reservations are made on request and are subject to the terms and conditions of the airline. Changes to flight fitteraries and hame changes and/ or corrections may either not be allowed or may result in penalties charged by the airline. These are the guest's responsibility along with the fees charged as described above. Airlines (and other travel providers including the Provider) change prices and routes from time to time. All air routings are in the sole control of the airline and are subject to change at any time.

Air Changes or Cancellation: After deposit has been received any changes, including cancellation incur a service fee, plus any airline penalties. Airline imposed penalties may be up to 100% of the air ticket price. Published Farses, Priore Match Fares, Promo Fares and some other airfares booked are non-refundable.

Not showing up for your outbound flight as booked and ticketed will be considered a no-show, and all the connecting flights associated with this one, even a return flight will be cancelled, and no refund will apply.

### SALES COMPANY

Travel Corporation NZ Limited

131 New North Road, Eden Terrace PO Box 68640.

Auckland 1021, New Zealand Toll Free: 0800 568 769

### Travel Agent Reservations:

Auckland area: 09 300 1581 All other areas: 0800 656 111

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT SAVINGS

TRIPLE ROOM DISCOUNT

YOUNG TRAVELLER SAVINGS

DEPOSIT PROTECTION

applied to each booking.

### OPERATORS:

Insight Vacations Limited, Travel House, Rue du Manoir, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY12.IH

Destination America Inc, 5551 Katella Avenue, Cypress, California 90630, USA AAT Kings Tours Pty Limited, 82 - 86 Bourke Road, Alexandria NSW 2015, Australia Travel Corporation NZ Limited, 131 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021, New Zealand

Not available on all trips. Trip departures have a limited number of

TRIPLE ROOM DISCOUNT Triple rooms are suitable for two adults and one child (three adults may find rooms too small as they often have one double and one foldaway bed and limited suitcase space). Triple rooms are limited on cruises and not available on all trips. A savings or supplemental charge may apply depending on the trip. See individual trip page on our website for details. Can be combined with other discounts.

Must be aged 5-17 at time of travel and accompanied by at least one adult sharing a twin room. Discounts are limited to one per room and are not available on our Asia, Israel, Jordan and Egypt trips, or trips with cruises. Can be combined with other discounts.

**GROUP BENEFITS** Travel with us and enjoy benefits on bookings of nine or more travellers. Contact Groups for journey ideas and savings.

Should your plans change and you cancel your booking before final payment is due, you will receive a credit of \$200 per person, valid for

up to five years from date of cancellation. This credit cannot be used

as a deposit against your future booking and can only be used as a credit against your final payment. Only one credit per person can be



### **CONDITIONS FOR SAVINGS & DISCOUNTS**

sinale rooms.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS

Applicable discounts are based on twin share per person. Savings only Applicable discubing are based on twin sin and per per per soft soft somigo on y apply to the land portion of your holiday, may not be available on all trips and departures, and are not applicable with extra nights' accommodations, optional extensions, airfares, taxes and fees, flight supplements, surcharges and airport transfers. Sometimes more for savings details, availability and restrictions for each trip.

#### PAST GUEST DISCOUNT

If you are a repeat Insight Vacations Traveller, or a previous guest of participating brands within TTC, you can take advantage of an exclusive 5% saving on any tour, to any country, at any time. Redeeming this discount is limited to one tour per calendar year (you must book after your initial tour is completed) and will be applied to an eligible, higher priced tour if you book two tours.

### SECOND TRIP DISCOUNT

Book two Insight trips of seven days or more and save on the lower priced trip. Take three trips and save on two. All trips must be booked at the same time and on the same booking number to qualify. Savings may vary by trip - see individual trip page on our website for details. Does not apply to Egypt, Israel, Jordan or India trips or trips with trains, cruises or cruise extensions.

### ROOMMATE MATCHING

ROOMMALE MALCHING [If traveling alone, we will match you with someone of the same gender, so you don't have to pay the single room supplement. Roommate Matching will be accommodated in non-smoking twin rooms and is not applicable on all Iceland it ineraries. Eastern Mediterranean, WW1 Battlefields, Malta tours, or tours with cruises.

Further conditions apply to all offers - visit insightvacations.com/special-offers for details or call your Travel Agent

# Peace of mind and ways to save

|              | PEACE OF MIND  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| •            | FINANCIAL STABILITY<br>BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE                  |   |
| 1            | DEPOSIT PROTECTION*<br>FIVE-YEAR GUARANTEE                   | ŝ |
| $\bigoplus$  | TRAVEL PROTECTION<br>AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE                  |   |
| \$           | NO CURRENCY SURCHARGES<br>GUARANTEED ON DEPOSIT              |   |
| $\checkmark$ | DEFINITE DEPARTURES AVAILABLE<br>BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE        |   |
|              | HYGIENE STANDARDS<br>HIGH STANDARDS OF CLEANLINESS & HYGIENE |   |

## Gold Seal Protection

Insight Vacation's Gold Seal Protection (GSP) plan costs only NZ\$129 per person. Your GSP plan is available only upon paying your deposit and cannot be added at a later date. GSP gives you additional peace of mind should your travel plans change, and includes:

Pre-Departure Cancellation: GSP allows you to cancel your Insight Vacation holiday for any reason without penalty prior to 30 days from the start date of your trip.

If no Force Majeure Event\* has occurred when you cancel, the value of your Insight Vacations Holiday Pre-payment\*\* will be refunded; or

If a Force Majeure Event\* has occurred causing you to cancel, the Insight Holiday Pre-payment\*\* will be converted to a Future Travel Credit (FTC) of the same value. The FTC may be redeemed against the cost of a new holiday provided by Insight Vacations or one of our Travel Corporation sister brands, departing at any time within 24 months of your cancellation but is not redeemable for cash. If the new trip or departure is more expensive than the FTC you are responsible for the difference in price; if the new trip or departure is less expensive than the FTC, a new FTC will be issued for the difference.

Airline travel costs and any related cancellation or rebooking costs are not covered by the Gold Seal

### Protection Plan.

During Your Trip: Should your holiday be interrupted and you leave at any time during the trip due to personal illness or injury; or be required to return to New Zealand because of the serious injury, illness or death of an immediate family member^:

- a. you will be refunded \$90 per person/per day for the unused portion of the holiday. Please note that in some cases hotels require a 1-night cancellation fee.
- b. Insight Vacations will pay the additional cost of airline travel for earlier or later return to New Zealand in the same class of air travel on the first available flight, provided the original return air tickets were booked through Insight Vacations from New Zealand.

A medical certificate is required to qualify for this holiday interruption and return flight security provision.

Please note that the Gold Seal Protection plan cost is not refundable for any reason. Travel Agent fees and cancellation costs may apply.

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