

CLASSICAL EUROPE

with a taste of Turkey & Greece

35 Days / 34 Nights



Tour Departs Saturday, 28th July - Friday, 31st August, 2012



The Itinerary

Day 1 - Saturday 28 July: Melbourne / Paris

Today after check in at Tullamarine we board our overnight flight to the enchanting French Capital, Paris.

Overnight Flight

Day 2 - Sunday 29 July: Paris

Dinner

On arrival into Paris we are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel for check in. The rest of the day is at leisure before tonight's Welcome Reception followed by dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Paris: Mercure Paris Suffren Tour Eiffel

Day 3 - Monday 30 July: Paris

Breakfast & Lunch

Today we discover the sights of the French capital during a **guided tour**. We will see the **Champs Élysées**, one of the most famous streets in the world, and the commemorative **Arc de Triomphe**. We also visit the **iconic Eiffel Tower** and journey up to the second viewing level, where stunning views of Paris and the River Seine await. One of the true icons of France – and indeed the world – our experience here will be made all the more special as we sit down to a delicious lunch of French specialities at the Eiffel Tower's restaurant. Later we arrive back at our hotel with dinner tonight (at own expense).

Overnight Paris: Mercure Paris Suffren Tour Eiffel

Day 4 - Tuesday 31 July: Paris

Breakfast

Today is ours to enjoy at leisure in the City of Light. Perhaps stroll along the boutique-lined boulevards, sip coffee in the bohemian Latin Quarter or go shopping at Rue Mouffetard. With tonight at leisure, perhaps enjoy dinner and a show at at Moulin Rouge optional (at own expense).

Overnight Paris: Mercure Paris Suffren Tour Eiffel

Day 5 - Wednesday 1 August: Paris / Amsterdam

Breakfast & Dinner

Today after breakfast we travel to Amsterdam and join the MS AmaLegro, conveniently moored close to Amsterdam's city centre. Tonight we meet up with our fellow cruise passengers at a Travelmarvel welcome reception onboard the MS AmaLegro.

Overnight MS AmaLegro



Day 6 - Thursday 2 August: Amsterdam**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Join a canal boat cruise and see the **sights of Amsterdam** from a unique vantage point. Sailing in a glass-top boat, admire 17th century homes, charming churches and 16th century merchant houses. Then, after time at leisure, return to your ship and enjoy lunch as you cruise along the Rhine River.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 7 - Friday 3 August: Cologne / Koblenz****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Having **entered Germany** overnight, we cruise past **Dusseldorf** and arrive in **Cologne**. Here, enjoy a **tour** through the old part of Germany's fourth-largest city. After lunch, continue cruising along the Rhine past quaint villages and dramatic landscapes to **Koblenz**. After dinner, perhaps go for an evening stroll through Koblenz at your leisure.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 8 - Saturday 4 August: Koblenz / Rudesheim****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Today we cruise through the **Rhine Gorge** on what is regarded as the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine. Enjoy views of the slopes covered in vineyards and dotted with ancient castles and ruins. Later arrive in **Rüdesheim** where a mini-train will take us to **Siegfried's Mechanical Music Instrument Museum** for a tour.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 9 - Sunday 5 August: Miltenberg / Wertheim****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning on board, we enjoy an **intriguing glass-blowing demonstration** as we cruise to **Miltenberg**. On arrival here, we join a tour of this lovely Franconian town. Then continue to **Wertheim**, where the **Main and Tauber rivers join**. Enjoy time at leisure to explore, or join a guided bicycle tour, then relax on board as we cruise along the Main River.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 10 - Monday 6 August: Würzburg / Kitzingen****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Surrounded by green hills covered with vineyards, **Würzburg** is the capital of Lower Franconia and a crucial centre for wine and trade. During a sightseeing tour here, visit the **Presidential Palace** for a tour and see churches ranging in styles from Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque to Modern. Then enjoy time at leisure to further explore, or perhaps take an optional excursion to the town of **Rothenburg** (own expense). After lunch we cruise to **Kitzingen**, where we can enjoy an evening stroll tonight.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 11 - Tuesday 7 August: Bamberg****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

After breakfast we disembark our ship and travel by coach to the **World Heritage-listed town of Bamberg**. During our time here we take a tour of the city's streets, with their charming houses and 18th century mansions. After our tour, enjoy time at leisure before returning to our ship. Back on board this afternoon, our ship cruises into the **Main-Danube Canal**. Having taken 32 years to construct, the canal was completed in 1992 and is a truly impressive feat of modern engineering. Enjoy another delicious dinner on board as we cruise towards Nuremberg, the capital of Franconia.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 12 - Wednesday 8 August: Nuremberg / Continental Divide****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Today we arrive in **Nuremberg**, a city that played a pivotal role for the Nazi Party during World War II and was thus systematically bombed by the British and US air forces. It went on to act as the symbolic host of the infamous Nuremberg Trials. Today we'll visit a number of **Nuremberg's World War II sites** on a **guided tour**. After our tour we reboard our ship and continue along the Main-Danube Canal. This afternoon, thanks to the series of stair-step locks, we'll arrive at the highest point of our cruise, 435 metres above sea level, where we **cross Europe's Continental Divide**.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 13 - Thursday 9 August: Regensburg****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Arrive in **Regensburg** today, one of **Germany's best-preserved medieval cities**. Here we will have the opportunity to see one of the oldest bridges crossing the Danube and take a **guided tour of the city's architectural highlights** including the Old Town Hall, the World Heritage-listed city centre and the **Porta Pretoria** - gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Alternatively we can take an optional tour to **Weltenburg Abbey** (at own expense). Tonight, enjoy a music performance after dinner.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 14 - Friday 10 August: Passau / Linz****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

After breakfast, arrive in **Passau**, where the **rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube**. Take a tour of the sights, including **St Stephen's Cathedral**, before enjoying an afternoon of cruising to **Linz**. During the cruise, witness the culinary art involved in making apple strudels during a demonstration. Alternatively, today we can choose to join an optional tour to **Salzburg and its 'Sound of Music' sights** (at own expense). After dinner tonight, disembark and explore the sights of Linz.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 15 - Saturday 11 August: Melk / Durnstein / Weissenkirchen****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Cruise through the scenic Strudengau region to the **pretty Wachau Valley** and take a **tour of Melk Abbey**, one of the world's most famous monastic sites. Located on an outcrop overlooking the Danube, it has the rare distinction of surviving as an **active Benedictine monastery** continuously since its foundation. After our tour, rejoin our ship and continue to **Dürnstein**, where we join a **walking tour** through medieval cobblestone streets. High above this pretty town, we'll see the ruins of the castle where **Richard the Lionheart, the King of England, was imprisoned in 1192**. Following our afternoon tour, re-board our ship and cruise back to **Weissenkirchen**, where we'll have the chance to **sample delicious Wachau Valley wines**.

Overnight MS AmaLegro

Day 16 - Sunday 12 August: Vienna**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

We **disembark in Vienna** and enjoy a **walking tour of the city**, founded in 500BC. Famed for striking architecture, classical musical and vibrant café culture, Vienna is a delightful place to explore, packed with historical and cultural landmarks. Many architectural masterpieces can be seen here, including examples of Baroque and Romanesque design, representing many centuries of development. The city is also a notable producer of fine cakes, one of which – the famous chocolate ‘sachertorte’ – which we may like to sample with coffee after our tour. Tonight, perhaps join us for an **optional Mozart and Strauss concert** (at own expense).

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 17 - Monday 13 August: Vienna / Bratislava****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Depart the Austrian capital and enjoy a morning of cruising as **we cross the Austrian border into Slovakia**. Upon arrival in the capital of **Bratislava**, disembark and take a walking tour. After our tour, the rest of the day is at leisure to further explore before dinner.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 18 - Tuesday 14 August: Budapest****Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Still on the Danube, **arrive in Budapest**, the romantic Hungarian capital. With its intriguing history, incredible architecture and rich cultural heritage, Hungary’s capital deserves its reputation as the **Paris of Central Europe**. Following breakfast, disembark for a **guided sightseeing tour of Budapest** that includes **500 year-old Matthias Church, St Stephen’s Basilica**, the distinctive **Fisherman’s Bastion**, the marvellous **Royal Palace** and historic **Buda Castle**. Tonight, take in the lights of the city during a **twilight cruise** along the **Danube River** as the sun goes down.

Overnight MS AmaLegro**Day 19 - Wednesday 15 August: Prague****Breakfast**

After breakfast this morning, **disembark the ship** and transfer to our hotel in **Prague** with dinner (at own expense).

Overnight Prague: Hotel Century Old Town Prague**Day 20 - Thursday 16 August: Prague Sightseeing****Breakfast**

This morning take a **walking tour of Prague’s Old Town**. Visit the **1,000 year-old Hradcany Castle** courtyard and **St Vitus**, and then walk over Charles Bridge to the **Old Market Square**. Perhaps join us for a special folklore performance over a dinner of local specialties (at own expense).

Overnight Prague: Hotel Century Old Town Prague**Day 21 - Friday 17 August: Prague at Leisure****Breakfast & Dinner**

With today at leisure, perhaps further explore, or join an **optional tour** to **Terezín Concentration Camp Memorial** or **Kutná Hora** all (at own expense). Tonight gather for a **farewell dinner** with our fellow travellers.

Overnight Prague: Hotel Century Old Town Prague**Day 22 - Saturday 18 August: Prague / Istanbul / Izmir****Breakfast & Dinner**

This morning we transfer to the **Prague Airport** for check in and **flight to Istanbul** capital of Turkey and then onto the **city of Izmir**. After arrival at Izmir Airport, we are transferred to our hotel for check in. The rest of the day is free to start soaking up the unique atmosphere of **Turkey’s third largest city**. Tonight we meet our new Tour Director before a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Overnight Izmir**Day 23 - Sunday 19 August: Izmir****Breakfast & Dinner**

This morning we travel to the **ancient city of Ephesus**, home of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus and later the capital of Roman Asia Minor. When St. Paul arrived here he was so awestruck that he asked: "Is there a greater city?" Visit one of the best-preserved ancient Amphitheatres, and then drive up to the **Chapel (House of the Virgin Mary)** marking the site where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. We continue with a visit to the **Basilica of St John** and then the **Church of Polycarp** before returning to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight Izmir**Day 24 - Monday 20 August: Izmir / Canakkale****Breakfast & Dinner**

Today we start with visits to the **Pergamom Museum** and the **Asclepion**, a shrine to the Greek god of medicine. Then, enjoy vistas of the Greek island of Lesbos as we follow the shores of the Bay of Edremit and continue to the **historic ruins of Troy**, the perfect place to brush up on **Homer’s Trojan War, hollow wooden horse** and all.

Overnight Canakkale**Day 25 - Tuesday 21 August: Canakkale / Gallipoli / Istanbul****Breakfast & Dinner**

By Ferry we **cross the Dardanelles** back to Europe and the 20th century. Visit the **World War I battlefields** on the **Gallipoli Peninsula**, where Allied troops, mainly Australians and New Zealanders, suffered heavy casualties in a disastrous campaign. We pay tribute to the heroes of those tragic months of 1915 at **Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Valley and Lone Pine**. Then, drive along the European shore of the Sea of Marmara back to **Istanbul** for check in and dinner.

Overnight Istanbul

Day 26 - Wednesday 22 August: Istanbul

Breakfast & Dinner

Istanbul was founded by the Greeks as Byzantium more than 2,500 years ago, renamed Constantinople in 330 AD when Constantine the Great elected it the capital of the Roman Empire, and finally called Istanbul after the Ottoman conquest in the 15th century, the city on the Bosphorus always was and still is one of the most exciting places in the world. Its strategic location as gateway between Orient and Occident, the Islamic and the Christian world, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, predestined it for a turbulent history.

We start our **sightseeing tour at Emperor Justinian's Hagia Sophia** and **Sultan Ahmet's Blue Mosque**, magnificent monuments to two competing world religions standing peacefully side by side. Next, turn to the **Topkapi Seraglio**, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Admire its exquisite collection of Chinese porcelain and the stunning Imperial Treasury, including the "Spoonmaker's Diamond." After a lunch break, **tour the Grand Bazaar** with its 4,000 tiny shops. The rest of the afternoon is free before dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Istanbul

Day 27 - Thursday 23 August: Istanbul / Athens

Breakfast & Dinner

After early breakfast we transfer to the airport to catch our 8.05am **flight to Athens** where we will transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. In the evening, we enjoy our dinner outing to one of Plaka's Tavernas with cool Retsina wines and folk dancing reminiscent of Zorba the Greek.

Overnight Athens

Day 28 - Friday 24 August: Athens

Breakfast & Dinner

Today we discover Athens as we motor along the coast to the bridge crossing the **spectacular Corinth Canal**, then visit **Ancient Corinth** where St. Paul preached. Two more major features today: **Mycenae** where 19th-century excavations reveal impressions of the splendours so vividly described by Homer. Admire the **Beehive Tombs**, the **Treasury of Atreus**, **Lion Gate**, Europe's oldest known monument, remains of **Agamemnon's Royal Palace**, and the impressive fortifications of the Citadel. Then a short drive to **Epidaurus** for a tour of its amazingly well preserved 2,300-year-old open-air theatre. We then head back to Athens to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight Athens

Day 29 - Saturday 25 August: Athens / Paros Island

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we again go sightseeing with a Local Guide which features a visit to the **Parthenon's** crowning beauty atop the **Acropolis**, the **Erechtheum** with its **Porch of Maidens**, the beautifully preserved **Theseum**, **Roman Temple of Zeus**, **Theatre of Dionysus**, and the **Agora** where Socrates taught. Vistas of the government buildings and elegant homes in the modern city provide a striking contrast to the remains of the glorious past. In the afternoon we will be transferred to Piraeus port for the late afternoon **ferry to Paros Island**.

Overnight Paros

Day 30 - Sunday 26 August: Paros / Naxos / Paros

Breakfast & Dinner

Depart in the morning by ferry to the **island of Naxos**. Set in the centre of the Aegean, Naxos is known for its dramatic landscapes, with meadows running into vast beaches and steep cliffs sinking suddenly into the sea. Here we begin by taking in the remains of the archaic **Temple of Apollo the "Portara"**. In the afternoon, stroll the old town and explore the **impressive Castro**, a relic of the over 350 years during which the Venetian Republic controlled the island. Later we return to Paros to our accommodation before dinner.

Overnight Paros

Day 31 - Monday 27 August: Paros / Santorini

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning, board a **high-speed ferry** and head to the crescent shaped, volcanic **isle of Santorini**. Known as the "**Black Pearl of the Aegean**," this magical destination is the southernmost Isle of the Cycladic Islands and, according to some, the site of the legendary **lost continent of Atlantis**. The rest of the day is at leisure, walk along the cobblestone streets, relax on one of the many sun-soaked beaches or stop at one of the famous wineries to taste the splendid Santorini wines. Later we check into our hotel before dinner.

Overnight Santorini

Day 32 - Tuesday 28 August: Santorini

Breakfast & Dinner

Today we **sail aboard a traditional "kaiki" (Greek Boat)** to stop first on an island with a still active volcano, followed by a unique experience of a swim in some hot springs. This evening drive to the most picturesque village on Santorini, **Oia** which is world famous for its **spectacular sunsets over the Caldera**. Time also to wander along the "marble street" with its shops, art galleries etc. En route we enjoy a short stop to learn about the regions wine making. Later we enjoy dinner back at the hotel.

Overnight Santorini

Day 33 Wednesday 29 August: Santorini / Athens

Breakfast & Dinner

Depart in the morning by **ferry to Piraeus (Athens)**. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure before our farewell dinner.

Overnight Athens

Day 34 Thursday 30 August: Athens / Melbourne

Breakfast

After breakfast and check out we transfer to the **Athens airport for check in and flight back home to Australia.**

Overnight Flight

Day 35 Friday 31 August: Melbourne

Arrival back into Australia.

Tour Inclusions:

- International Economy Flights Australia – Paris / Prague – Istanbul / Istanbul – Athens / Athens – Australia
- Domestic Economy Flight Istanbul – Izmir
- International Airline Taxes up to the value of \$700.00
- Port Taxes
- 3 Nights Paris
- 15 Day Classical Europe Cruise Amsterdam – Budapest (Based Cat B Cabins Private Balconies)
- Tipping of Cruise Staff & Cruise Director
- Gratuities for Driver & Tour Director in Turkey & Greece
- 3 Nights Prague
- 5 Nights Turkey
- 7 Nights Greece (Includes 3 Athens, 2 Paros Island & 2 Santorini)
- Accommodation 3.5 – 4 star Hotels
- 74 Meals (Includes 16 Dinners with complimentary local wines)
- 30 Cities, Towns & Villages
- Luxury Air-conditioned Motor Coach in Turkey & Greece with Multi Lingual Tour Guides
- Inclusions as per Itinerary

Full Tour Highlights: Paris Highlights, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées; 15 Days Classical Europe Cruise Amsterdam – Budapest visiting 20 Cities, towns & villages (Cruise Highlights listed below); Prague Highlights; Classical Turkey – Cities of Istanbul & Izmir, Spectacular Ancient City of Ephesus, House of the Virgin Mary, Basilica of St John, Church of Polycarp, Pergamom Museum, Asclepion, City of Troy & Homers Horse; Gallipoli Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Valley & Lone Pine; Highlights of Athens, The Acropolis, Erechtheum Porch of Maidens, Theseum, Roman Temple of Zeus, Theatre of Dionysus; Island of Naxos, Temple of Apollo the "Portara", Impressive Castro; Island of Santorini, Island Cruise, Village of Oia and much more.

Tour Highlights: Paris Highlights, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées; Cruise along the canals of Amsterdam; Enjoy an evening stroll in Cologne; Cruise through the Rhine Gorge on the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine; In Rudesheim, take a mini-train ride to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Instrument Museum; Take a walking tour of Miltenberg; Watch a glass-blowing demonstration as you cruise along the Main River; See the sights of Würzburg; Explore World Heritage-listed Bamberg; Discover the sights of Nuremberg; Take a tour of Regensburg; Sample delicious Wachau Valley wines; Explore Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey on a guided tour; Take a guided city tour of Vienna; Take a walking tour of Bratislava; Discover the sights of Budapest; Tour Prague, visiting Hradcany Castle courtyard, St Vitus, the Old Market Square and more

Not Included

- Passport & Visa Fees
- Any Incidentals
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers on shore excursions during European Cruise portion as well as third party operators in Turkey & Greece.

Special Conditions:

- Please note should passenger numbers fall below the stated Minimum Numbers above then prices are subject to change.
- Prices are based on a "Fly Free" offer by Travelmarvel and are subject to availability. Should seats become booked out in this class then an upgrade cost will apply.
- Flights are to be booked with Malaysia Airlines, Emirates or Lufthansa or an airline of Travelmarvel's choice. Flight details cannot be changed once Air Tickets have been issued.
- Booking, Terms & Conditions as per the 2012 Travelmarvel Europe River Cruising "Terms & Conditions"

35 Day Tour/Cruise Cost

\$13848.00 per person Twin Share (\$5680.00 single supplement)

Minimum 20 Paying Passengers

\$13648.00 per person Twin Share (\$5680.00 single supplement)

Minimum 30 Paying Passengers

21 Day Paris - Prague Cruise Tour Cost

\$10180.00 per person Twin Share (\$4990.00 single supplement)

Minimum 32 Paying Passengers

Deposits: A non-refundable deposit of \$3250 is due within 7 days of booking.

***** Please see special conditions regarding "Fly Free" offer.**

Final Payment: Balance of Tour Cost due Friday, 23 March, 2012.

Trade Travel can assist with Travel Insurance on 1800 034 439



For Bookings & Enquiries Contact Trade Travel - Ph 1800 034 439