GO AHEAD TOURS

Grand Tour of Europe: London to Rome

16 days | 18 days with Florence extension

On this sweeping tour, world-famous sights like Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and the Colosseum are just the beginning of what you'll experience. Get a taste of several languages and cultures as you journey from Great Britain to France to the Netherlands, travel across Germany, and continue through Switzerland and Italy.

Your tour package includes

14 nights in handpicked hotels
14 breakfasts
1 lunch
4 dinners with beer or wine
11 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
3 train rides

Included highlights

Trafalgar Square
Buckingham Palace
Eurostar train ride
Eiffel Tower photo stop
Bloemenmarkt
Rhine River cruise
Lake Como
St. Mark's Square
Colosseum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15–38

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16 days | 18 days with Florence extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to London today.

London → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in London
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to England! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London
Included meals: breakfast
View the regal landmarks of England's vibrant and cosmopolitan capital on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations, weddings, and funerals
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye, and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Spend a free afternoon in London or add an excursion.
+ Windsor Castle

Paris → 2 nights

Day 4: Eurostar train ride to Paris
Included meals: breakfast
Board the famed high-speed Eurostar train and travel beneath the English Channel as you journey to Gare du Nord in Paris, France.
Enjoy a free evening in Paris or add an excursion.
+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Paris
Included meals: breakfast
A guided tour introduces you to the architecture, scenery, and history of the City of Light's many neighborhoods, called *arrondissements*.

- Drive down the sycamore-lined Champs-Élysées to view the Arc de Triomphe
- Pass Pont Neuf and the legendary Notre-Dame Cathedral, located on an island in the Seine River
- See the Eiffel Tower, the Palais Garnier opera house, and Place de la Concorde, the city's grandest square
- Marvel at the iconic architecture of the Louvre and Hôtel des Invalides

Spend the afternoon exploring Paris on your own or add an excursion.
+ Versailles Palace & Gardens

Amsterdam → 2 nights

Day 6: Train ride to Amsterdam & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast
Ride a high-speed train to Amsterdam, where a panoramic tour with a local guide introduces you to the the Dutch capital's iconic canals and unique character.

- Walk through Bloemenmarkt, the city's famous floating flower market, and pass by Begijnhof Chapel
- Then, make a stop at a local cheese stop to explore a variety of local cheeses
- Stroll by the canals and bridges, taking in the houseboats that dot the banks
- Enter the Van Gogh Museum to admire the largest collection of Vincent Van Gogh's masterpieces, including the famous *Sunflowers*.

Please note: You'll be divided into groups of 20 people or less for the walking portion of the sightseeing tour. Each group will have their own local guide.

Day 7: Free day in Amsterdam
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Amsterdam or add excursions.
+ Canal Cruise & Dinner
+ A Day in Charming Delft

Heidelberg Region → 1 night

Day 8: Heidelberg Region via Cologne & Rhine River cruise
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Cross into Germany on your way to the Heidelberg region today, making several stops along the way.

- Enter Cologne Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage site
- Marvel at views of six ancient castles during a cruise on the Rhine River, which takes you from Boppard to Sankt Goar

Please note: From mid-October through March you will enjoy a German wine tasting in Boppard instead of the cruise.
Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Swiss Alps → 2 nights

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg & transfer to the Swiss Alps
Included meals: breakfast
Discover the medieval charms of Heidelberg on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Walk through Heidelberg's Old Town, passing Market Square and Heidelberg University
- Take a funicular ride to top of Heidelberg Castle for panoramic views of the Old Bridge and the Rhine River below

Then, cross into Switzerland this afternoon.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne
Included meals: breakfast
A local guide introduces you to Lucerne, a charming lakeside city located in the Swiss Alps.

- Pass hand-painted facades along the cobbled streets of the Old Town
- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built in Switzerland north of the Alps
- Cross the medieval Kapellbrücke, a covered wooden footbridge spanning the Reuss River, and view the Water Tower

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Swiss Alps or add an excursion.
+ Mount Pilatus

Lake Como Region → 1 night

Day 11: Boat ride on Lake Como
Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Transfer over the Alps into Italy and take a scenic cruise on Lake Como, viewing the towns of Lario and Como from the water. Then, stop in the lakeside town of Bellagio for lunch.
Please note: Depending on the season, dinner may be included instead of lunch today.

Venice → 2 nights

Day 12: Venice via Verona
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
En route to Venice, stop in Verona and walk through the city with your Tour Director.

- Stroll through the city's UNESCO-recognized historic center
- Admire the Roman arena, Piazza delle Erbe, and the balcony of Shakespeare's Juliet

Enjoy free time before continuing on to Venice, where you'll sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Venice
Included meals: breakfast
Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison
- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.
+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise
+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

Rome → 2 nights

Day 14: Train ride to Rome & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast
Travel to Rome by train, crossing the Apennine Mountains for sweeping views of the Italian countryside. Then, follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass Palatine Hill, see where ancient Romans raced chariots at Circus Maximus, and view the Baths of Caracalla

Day 15: Free day in Rome
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Enjoy a free day in Rome or add an excursion. Then, join your group at tonight's farewell dinner. Tonight, as you dine, you'll be treated to a multi-course traditional Italian meal with a live musical entertainment.
+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Flight Home

Day 16: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Florence.

+ Florence extension

Not ready to say arrivederci? Continue your trip in the Tuscan capital of Florence, where Renaissance beauty and really (really) good food are practically everywhere. See the highlights alongside a local guide, then lean on your Tour Director's expert recommendations to seek out even more.

Florence → 2 nights

Day 16: Transfer to Florence & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast
Travel north to Florence this morning, arriving in time for a guided tour.

- View the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- Walk past Piazza della Repubblica to the medieval Ponte Vecchio
- Stroll along the Arno River and through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria, center of Florentine life

Enjoy a free evening in Florence or add an excursion.
+ Fiesole Villa Dinner

Day 17: Free day in Florence
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Florence or add an excursion.
This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
+ Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns

Flight Home

Day 18: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/EUR | 1-800-754-5066**

Day 3: Windsor Castle
$175CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday, entrance will be replaced by an excursion to Hampton Court. For any departures where the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Tuesday, the excursion will be moved to another day on tour or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 4: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise
$175CAD/$185CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

Day 5: Versailles Palace & Gardens
$199CAD (5 hours, departure time varies)
The reign of Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King," set new standards for decadence among the crowned heads of Europe. It took 50 years and 35,000 workers to turn Versailles, once a small hunting lodge, into the most magnificent château in all of France and the envy of royalty worldwide. On this excursion, you'll see the palace in all its glory as you tour the State Apartments and the glittering Hall of Mirrors. Then, stroll through the lavish gardens to admire their fine statuary, splendid fountains, and colorful flowerbeds. Please note: Versailles Palace is closed on Mondays. The optional excursion may be moved to a different day on tour to accommodate schedules. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

Day 7: Canal Cruise & Dinner
$179CAD/$189CAD* (3 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)
Cruise along the canals of Amsterdam on a houseboat, enjoying the view of row houses lit up for the night. Your cruise will take you through the center of the city as you enjoy dinner by lantern light.

Day 7: A Day in Charming Delft
$175CAD/$185CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning)
Pay a visit to the world-famous flower market at Aalsmeer for a close-up look at one of Holland's best-known national exports: its brilliantly hued tulips. Continue to Delft, a charming town of canals, cobbled alleyways and medieval architecture. Visit the Old and New Churches on a guided tour, and then enjoy free time to grab lunch and explore the town, perhaps visiting the former home of the famous painter, Vermeer. Please note: A visit to the Hague will replace the flower market on days when the market is closed.

Day 10: Mount Pilatus
$185CAD/$195CAD* (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain.

Day 13: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise
$125CAD/$135CAD* (25 minutes, departure time varies)
More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

Day 13: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two
$225CAD/$235CAD* (25 minutes, departure time varies)
More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.
Please note: This excursion requires two passengers. Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

Day 15: Iconic Sights: Vatican City
$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)
This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known: Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.
Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 16: Fiesole Villa Dinner
$129CAD/$139CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Head just outside Florence to Fiesole, a historic Tuscan town perched on a hill overlooking the Renaissance city. Tonight's dinner is set in a picturesque villa with panoramic views of the city below. Start your evening with an aperitif and then enjoy a refined Italian dinner with local wine. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April to October. Additionally, the aperitif may be enjoyed inside in the case of inclement weather.

Day 17: Siena & San Gimignano: Tuscan Hilltowns
$175CAD/$185CAD* (10 hours, departs in the morning)
Discover the essence of Tuscany on a full-day excursion. In Siena, a local guide introduces you to the town and its black-and-white marble duomo, where you'll find brilliantly colored 16th-century frescoes in the Piccolomini Library. You'll have some free time to explore the Campo, the square that serves as the center of civic life in Siena. Then, journey through the

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countryside to the town of San Gimignano, where you'll have some free time to explore the city's medieval towers or simply admire the Tuscan hills. Later, you'll head to a nearby vineyard, where an included wine tasting awaits. Please note: This excursion involves a moderate amount of walking.

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