



Education First

Educational Tours

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE

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Educational Tours

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE

INCLUDED ON TOUR



Round-trip flights on major carriers; Full-time Tour Director; Air-conditioned motorcoaches and internal transportation; Superior tourist-class hotels with private bathrooms; Select meals with a mix of local cuisine; Connect to your travel experiences with weShare, our project-based online educational tool.

Guided Sightseings: Heidelberg; Salzburg; Paris; Versailles; St. Malo; The Loire Valley

Optionals: Mount Pilatus

Entrances: Heidelberg Castle & Wine Barrel; Night Watchman Tour; Mozart's Birthplace; Neuschwanstein Castle; Versailles Palace & Gardens; Eiffel Tower; Louvre; Notre Dame Cathedral; Caen Memorial; Mont-St-Michel Abbey; St. Vincent Cathedral; Château de Chenonceau; Château de Chambord; Chartres Cathedral

Overnight stays:
Heidelberg Region (1)
Rothenburg (1)
Munich (2)
Lucerne Region (2)
Paris (2)
Normandy Region (1)
St. Malo (2)
Loire Valley (1)
Paris (1)

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM PRICE

Optional excursions; Insurance coverage; Beverages and lunches; Transportation to free-time activities; Customary gratuities (for your Tour Director, bus driver and local guide); Porterage; Adult supplement (if applicable); Weekend supplement; Shore excursions on cruises; Any applicable baggage-handing fee imposed by the airlines (see eftours.com/baggage for details); Expenses caused by airline rescheduling, cancellations or delays caused by the airlines, bad weather or events beyond EF's control; Passports, visa and reciprocity fees



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YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart for Frankfurt

Board your international overnight flight to Frankfurt!

Day 2: Heidelberg Region

Arrive in Frankfurt and Transfer to Heidelberg

Arrive in Heidelberg, one of Germany's most beautiful towns, standing proudly on the River Neckar. While its castle dominates the skyline, the town also has wonderful shopping and a vibrant nightlife due to its large university population.

Day 3: Heidelberg | Rothenburg

Guided Sightseeing of Heidelberg

Become acquainted with Germany's oldest university city (the university dates back to 1386). See Heidelberg's 700-year-old Schloß (palace) and its famous Faß (wine barrel), the world's largest. From the castle's rose-colored walls and historic battlements, enjoy a stunning view of the Neckar Valley, where Homo heidelbergensis roamed 500,000 years ago. You'll also see the town's medieval streets and Marktplatz, where witches were once burned at the stake. Writers as diverse as Mark Twain (who once floated down the Neckar on a raft) and Goethe (who was inspired by the view from the Schloß) have long praised Heidelberg's enduring beauty.

Transfer to Rothenburg

Continue on to Rothenburg. Situated along the Romantic Road, Rothenburg is one of a string of unspoiled medieval villages and towns between Fussen in the south and the Bavarian Alps in the North. One of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe, Rothenburg was first mentioned in written records in 804 as a settlement north of the Tauber River.

Night Watchman Tour

This evening, you will have a tour led by the Night Watchman of Rothenburg. Until 1920, this position was held by a man in the city who would each night wander the streets to deter thieves and drunkards. In a time before fire hydrants, his key responsibility was to warn the sleeping residents of fire and other dangers.

Day 3: Rothenburg | Munich

Free Morning in Rothenburg

Enjoy free time today to explore this charming medieval town. You may ascend the Gothic tower of the Town Hall for a panoramic view of the city and the countryside beyond or visit the historical museum located in a 13th-century abbey.

Transfer to Munich

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

Day 4: Munich

Guided Excursion to Salzburg

Begin your tour near the ornate gardens of the Schloss Mirabell before crossing to the west bank of the city. Here you will visit Mozart's birthplace before venturing into the heart of the city, much of which was designed during the 16th century by the Italian, Scamozzi. You will see the imposing and beautiful Domplatz as well as striking examples of Gothic churches, most notably the Franziskanerkirche.

Walking Tour of Munich

Stroll through the very heart of Munich as you pass the twin copper domes of the Frauenkirche, a long-standing symbol of the city. Arrive at Marienplatz, once the intersection of medieval trade routes. Here you can see the neo-Gothic Rathaus and the golden Mariensäule, a monument commemorating Munich's divine salvation from rampaging Swedish hordes. Then continue past the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall-on a good day, almost 30,000 liters of beer are sold here.

Day 5: Lucerne Region

Transfer to Lucerne via Neuschwanstein Castle

Visit "Mad" King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein, the real-life model for the Disney World castles. Ponder the young king's mysterious death as you learn the story of one of Europe's most eccentric rulers. King Ludwig so preferred dreams over reality that his servants could address him only from behind a screen. In fact, the original plans for the castle were drawn up by a theater set designer, not an architect.

Arrive in the Lucerne Region

Recall the legends of folk hero William Tell (and his fortunate aim) as you overnight in the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne) region.

Day 6: Lucerne Region

Walking Tour of Lucerne

Begin your tour at the touching Löwendenkmal (Lion Monument), a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 Paris storming of the Tuileries. From here you will stroll across the Kapellbrücke, a covered bridge whose history dates back to medieval days and through the cobbled streets of the Old Town.

Optional Excursion to Mt. Pilatus

Opt to take a breathtaking journey with a relaxing cruise around Lake Lucerne. You ascend the mountain by way of the world's steepest cogwheel railway - a marvel of Swiss ingenuity and design. At the summit you will have stunning views across the country before you begin your cable-car descent over the serene forests of Kriens.

Day 7: Paris

Transfer to Paris via Burgundy

Travel amidst the vineyards of Burgundy and pass through Beaune. This town of age-old architecture surrounded by 15th-century ramparts once acted as the headquarters for the dukes of Burgundy.

Arrive in Paris

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

Day 8: Paris

Guided Sightseeing of Paris

Discover the city on the Seine during your morning bus tour. Learn about Paris' origins as a Roman settlement as you pass through the Île de la Cité, where you will also see Notre Dame Cathedral. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, and the École Militaire, where he graduated to Lieutenant. Continue down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution. Then, head through the Quartier Latin where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University, and drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D'Orsay, the Louvre and the Pont de Neuf, or 'new bridge', which is ironically Paris' oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Guided Excursion to Versailles

Step back into le grand siècle as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France's most extravagant château continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. You'll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You'll also witness the ornate decor of the Queen's State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. After your visit inside the palace, be sure to take some time to stroll through the elaborate gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. *(Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.)*

Ascend the Eiffel Tower

Built in 1889 for the World's Fair, the tower is now one of the world's most recognizable monuments and a symbol of Paris. Standing over 300 meters high, with a viewing balcony on each of its three levels, a visit to this historical landmark is one of the must-do events in any visit to the city. *(Pending availability due to limited group reservations)*

Day 9: Paris | Normandy Region

Walking Tour of Paris

Begin your walking tour at the Louvre and cross over the Seine River. On the left bank, watch the bouquinistes selling old books and postcards and catch glimpses of the Conciergerie and St. Chappelle from the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in the city. Continue through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris' most famous university, founded in 1253. The quarter was named for its inhabitants' native tongue; Latin was the official language until 1793. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made during a severe illness to build a church dedicated to Saint Geneviève if he survived. Your tour will end at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Transfer to Normandy

Transfer to Normandy, the location of many of the battles that turned the course of World War II. Despite its connection with major military events, Normandy is also a region of scenic beauty with elegant landscapes and patchwork fields as well as the majesty of its two major towns-Caen and Rouen.

Day 10: St. Malo

Visit the Normandy Beaches and the American Cemetery

At daybreak on June 6, 1944, the Allies' D-Day landings took place, sparking the largest sea-borne invasion in military history and one of the bravest acts of World War II. As you walk on the same shores that witnessed so much courage and sacrifice over half a century ago, you can still see shelled out craters on the rocky cliffs alongside the occasional remains of German bunkers. Above the beaches, visit the final resting place of 9,386 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the landings and ensuing operations of World War II. The site also includes a memorial commemorating the soldiers and a chapel bearing the poignant words: "These endured all and gave all that justice among nations might prevail and that mankind might enjoy freedom and inherit peace."

Visit the Caen Memorial: Museum of Peace

Pay tribute to WWII troops who fought on the beaches of Normandy as you visit the Caen Memorial. You'll see a short film about the D-Day invasion, followed by a slide show on WWII. A third audio-visual presentation recounts the wars in Korea, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, as well as the continuing quest for world peace. Afterwards, tour the museum and see displays that depict pre-WWII Europe and trace the events that eventually led to the outbreak of war. Take time to walk through the Nobel Peace Prizewinners' Gallery, a gallery that highlights the accomplishments of the men and women who struggled for peace.

Transfer to St. Malo

Travel along the coastal region of Brittany to St. Malo. It was from here that Jacques Cartier set sail in 1534 to explore Canada's St. Lawrence River Valley. Today the city acts as both a popular tourist destination as well as one of the channel's busiest ports.

Day 11: St. Malo

Guided Sightseeing of St. Malo

Pirates once set sail from this rocky Atlantic island. Learn how the town's seamen fought Barbary pirates and plundered English, Dutch and Spanish merchants. Take in the narrow streets, tall granite homes and medieval ramparts on your guided tour. Your tour also includes a visit to Saint Vincent's Cathedral, the former seat of the Bishop of St. Malo.

Visit Mont-St-Michel

Tour the breathtaking islet monastery of Mont-St-Michel. Perched high on a granite rock, this 8th-century abbey is surrounded by water at high tide and quicksand at low tide.

Day 12: Loire Valley

Transfer to the Loire Valley for a Guided Sightseeing

Explore the area known as the 'playground of Kings.' Featuring some of the most impressive buildings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Loire Valley was also home to some of the most influential women in European history. Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine de Medici resided here, while Joan of Arc rode to Chinon to convince Charles VII to fight for his throne.

Visit the Château de Chenonceau

Your excursion into the Playground of the Kings includes a visit to the most romantic château in the region: the exquisite Château de Chenonceau. Built over the River Cher and surrounded by water, the château is characterized by the Pont de Diane, an arched bridge that spans the river. Serving both practical and aesthetic functions (it also houses the grand gallery), it was this bridge that spared the château from destruction during the French Revolution as it provided the only access across the river for miles. Learn of the extraordinary succession of women, beginning in the 1500s with Catherine Bohier, Diane de Poitiers, and Catherine de Médicis, who each influenced the design of the castle as it is today. After touring the lavish interior, be sure to stroll through the terraced gardens and take in the spectacular views of the château as it sits along the river that makes Chenonceau so unique.

Visit the Château de Chambord

Visit this 16th-century chateau, which was completed as a hunting lodge for the counts of Blois in just fifteen years by up to 1,800 workmen. Featuring four towers and a system of smaller towers that formulate the intricate roof, Chambord is known as one of the most grandiose of the Renaissance projects.

Day 13: Paris

Return to Paris via Chartres

Dominating the skyline of this town is the 13th-century cathedral, one of the most amazing achievements in Western architecture. With its two towers, one Gothic the other Romanesque, this is a truly unique experience. Take time to enjoy the picturesque gardens that surround the cathedral.

Visit the Louvre Museum

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

Day 14: Depart for Home

Transfer to the Airport for Your Return Flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

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

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“As a parent I am very grateful that I was able to give this opportunity to my child. It was worth every penny to see her smiling face in the pictures on the trip. Encourage your child to embrace the moment; be open to new cultures, foods, and just a new way of life and looking at things.”

— KATHLEEN, DAUGHTER TRAVELED APRIL 2013

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