2024 / VOLUME 2 Spring & Summer Tours BRITAIN & IRELAND BRITAIN & IRELAND CANADA USA

WALKING TOURS COACH TOURS CRUISES WALKING TOURS COACH TOURS CRUISES

Discover Our Beautiful World



PEACE OF MIND

At Senior Discovery Tours, we take care of all the travel details, so all you have to do is sit back and enjoy every minute of your trip. As Canada's largest and most trusted group tour operator for over 45 years, our tours are designed to provide peace of mind and a carefree experience for the mature traveller. We offer over 100 different tour programs which deliver outstanding service, value and discovery, so get ready to fill your minds and cameras with beautiful images, striking landscapes and special moments.

EXCEEDING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Our Tour Planners travel the globe seeking new destinations, vetting every element of the tour - from perfectly planned itineraries, to personally inspected hotels, and even the menu choices. We don't just try to meet your expectations, we aim to exceed them. We include more meals at local restaurants for authentic dining, not-to-be-missed iconic sights, cultural immersion and off-the-beaten-track experiences, and a number of surprises along the way!



TRAVEL MADE EASY

Our travellers love our tours because, unlike most other tour operators, we include everything: flights, carefully selected hotels, most meals, all tips, all taxes, insurance for cancellation and health while outside Canada, and even transportation between your home and the airport (from most Canadian cities). All prices are guaranteed in Canadian dollars, and there are never any surprise costs or hidden surcharges.

TOUR MANAGERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Our Tour Managers are the best in the business. They go above and beyond to ensure your trip runs smoothly, and that everything is delivered at a superior level of service. Their experience enables them to expertly handle unexpected situations, and their enthusiasm for travel enlivens every tour.



TRAVEL SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The world of travel has changed, but what hasn't changed is our commitment to the health and safety of our guests. As a company that has been specializing in tours for those 55+ for over 45 years, we remain committed to being the best-in-class for your health and safety. Our team consults with health and security experts worldwide to ensure that your health, well being, and enjoyment remain our top priority.

Enhanced Health & Safety Highlights:

- Those travelling outside Canada will be covered by our Manulife Out-of-Country Health Insurance Plan, (unless you choose to decline it),
 - * Manulife terms and conditions apply
- We strongly encourage that our travellers wear a mask while on our motorcoaches.
- If there are any health protocols necessary for your tour we will keep you informed well in advance of the trip. Should any specific requirements be imposed by airlines and/or authorities in the destinations visited, our guests must fully comply.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION TERMS

Please rest assured that you can book your Senior Discovery Tours holiday with complete peace of mind. We will continue to be the travel industry leader by offering a refund policy far more flexible and generous than other tour operators.

- Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour (120 days prior for cruises) you may decide, at your sole discretion, whether or not you want to proceed on the trip. If you inform us by that time that you choose not to go, we will send you a full refund of your deposit / payment (less the \$75 administration fee).
- If you cancel your tour less than 60 days prior to your trip (120 days prior for cruises), for a reason not covered in our Cancellation Policy, we have negotiated with our travel partners to obtain reduced cancellation charges. More details can be found under our "Terms and Conditions" on the back page of our brochure.

CANCELLATION AND TRIP INTERRUPTION INSURANCE INCLUDED!

- Included in the cost of your tour is our Cancellation Insurance Policy, which provides coverage in case of emergency injury or illness (including Covid), right up to your date of departure (terms and conditions apply).
- Our Manulife Out-of-Country Health Insurance Plan covers expenses related to Trip Interruption in case of emergency injury or illness (including Covid). For tours within Canada, Senior Discovery Tours will cover such expenses (terms and conditions apply to the policies of both Manulife and Senior Discovery Tours).

#SAFETRAVELS



We're delighted to announce that we've been awarded the *Safe Travels Stamp* by the World Travel and Tourism Council, recognized globally for adopting safety and hygiene standards issued by government and health authorities around the world, designed specifically to address outbreaks such as COVID 19.

MORE REWARDING TRAVEL

Discovery Rewards

A WELCOME GIFT THE MOMENT YOU JOIN

Enjoying unforgettable travel experiences with Senior Discovery Tours is now even more exciting as we launch our Discovery Rewards program. From exclusive travel items to savings on future tours with us, Discovery Rewards offer exciting ways to get more out of every trip. The more you travel, the higher your Discovery Rewards tier level status and rewards.

- Great travel-related gift items
- Rewards and savings on future tours
- Easy tier levels mean quick member status upgrades



SHARING THE JOY OF TRAVEL

Senior Discovery Tours enjoys some of the best reviews in the travel industry, and we want to reward your loyalty by introducing our exciting new referral program, Blue Sky Referrals. If you're a member of our Discovery Rewards and opt-in to BlueSky Referrals, you may refer 5 family and friends right away! If your referrals stay subscribed to our promotional communications for at least 6 months, you will both be rewarded! Plus, if your referrals complete a trip with us, you will receive savings towards your future tour with Senior Discovery Tours. For over 45 years, Senior Discovery Tours has sent more satisfied senior travellers on more tours than any other Canadian tour operator, and we will continue to measure our success through your positive reviews.



THE CLUB THAT TAKES YOU FURTHER

Senior Discovery Tours has always welcomed the opportunity to offer clubs and associations an exclusive reward for their loyalty when their members travel with us. We offer a 4% commission that will be paid directly to the club/association AND there is no minimum number of bookings required to receive the commission.

If you have any questions or would like to book a virtual presentation for your club/association, please contact us at **info@seniordiscoverytours.ca** or call **1-800-268-3492**.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Thank you to all clients who have posted positive reviews. We appreciate your feedback and would love to continue to hear about your past travels and memories with Senior Discovery Tours - it's an integral part of helping us plan future tours so we can continue to provide you with superior travel experiences. Please continue to leave us Google and Facebook reviews and share your travel photos using #SeniorDiscoveryTours. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter or request a brochure on our website to get all the latest news about our exciting tours and cruises. Let's connect on social media!

For Full Program Details and Easy Enrollment visit SeniorDiscoveryTours.ca

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ALWAYS INCLUDED IN OUR EXPERTLY PLANNED TOURS

- Round-trip transportation between your home and the airport (from many Canadian cities)
- All airfare, airport taxes, and fuel surcharges. (Airline baggage fees are *not* included)
- Carefully selected accommodations, including hotel taxes, gratuities, and luggage handling (where available)
- All gratuities for hotels, drivers, local guides, and cruise staff
- Most meals, highlighting local flavour
- Comprehensive insurance plan (health while outside Canada, cancellation, trip interruption, loss of luggage, etc.)
- Plenty of unparalleled sightseeing, and entrance fees
- Expert local guides
- Experienced, professional, and engaging Tour Managers
- Prices include all taxes and are guaranteed in Canadian funds!

You have the option to arrange your own flights - air rebate will be applied. If you choose this option, home pick-up and airport transfers not included.

TO BOOK

- Phone one of our offices, with credit card info, to reserve your space.
- A deposit of \$300 per person for regular tours, or \$700 per person for tours including a cruise, is due upon booking.
- \$75 of your deposit is a non-refundable administration fee.
- For those paying by cheque please send your deposit to one of our offices within 7 days of making your booking.
- Balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure for regular tours, or 90 days prior for tours including a cruise, train, or entry visa.

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Canadian Rockies and Beautiful B.C.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada, and Air Canada Rouge
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast daily
- 7 dinners
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg - \$5797
- Single supplement \$1490
- Triples deduct \$150 per person
- Montreal or Ottawa add \$90
- Halifax add \$190
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - deduct \$300

Western Canada - especially the Rocky Mountains is rightly considered to be one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Awe-inspiring mountain ranges with glistening snowcapped peaks, azure blue lakes, huge areas of unspoiled wilderness, an abundance of wildlife and a highlydeveloped tourist infrastructure all combine to make this area one of the world's most desirable travel destinations.

On this tour we will experience the grandeur of Lake Louise, Banff and Jasper National Parks, as well as the exciting British Columbian cities of Vancouver (one of the world's favourite cities) and the capital of B.C., Victoria, which resembles a bit of England transplanted to <u>10 DAYS • 3 DATES IN 2024</u> JULY 25 - AUGUST 3 AUGUST 22 - 31 SEPTEMBER 19 - 28

Canada. For the adventurous we have included some wonderful experiences: the Columbia Icefields, the Gondola Lift at Sulphur Mountain, Hell's Gate Airtram and spectacular excursions on Maligne Lake and Banff's Bow River.

* This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.

Day 1: Departure / Calgary / Banff. We depart for Calgary with Air Canada. Upon arrival we enjoy the scenic transfer into the Rocky Mountains and our Banff hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Banff. This morning we take a gondola ride up Sulphur Mountain for breathtaking views of the town and Rocky Mountains. In the afternoon we will enjoy a leisurely float trip along the Bow River, admiring the views of the snow-capped Rockies all along the way.

Day 3: Lake Louise / Columbia Icefields / Jasper. We begin the day with a visit to Lake Louise. With its emerald waters set against the backdrop of Victoria Glacier, Lake Louise is probably the most-photographed scene in the Canadian Rockies. We then proceed along one of North America's most spectacular highways, the Icefields Parkway, where wildlife sightings are common. Of course we will stop for photos at Peyto Lake. The highlight of the day will be our ride aboard a unique "Snocoach" up the Athabasca Glacier to the Columbia Icefield - the world's Iargest accumulation of ice south of the Arctic Circle. After our ride, we continue on to view Athabasca Falls before arriving in Jasper.

Day 4: Maligne Canyon / Jasper. This morning we visit one of the most spectacular gorges in the Canadian Rockies: Maligne Canyon, where sheer limestone walls plunge to depths of 165 feet. We also visit Maligne Lake, the second-largest glacial lake in the world. Our lake cruise offers us breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks, and also Spirit Island.

Day 5: Wells Gray Provincial Park / Kamloops. We enter British Columbia and are greeted with views in the distance of Mt. Robson - the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, as well as Mt. Terry Fox. Today's highlight will be Wells Gray Provincial Park, with its towering mountains, deep canyons, volcanic cones, ancient old-growth forests, raging white-water rivers, and many beautiful waterfalls. After our visit we proceed to Kamloops. **Day 6: Cache Creek / Fraser Canyon / Vancouver.** Our first stop is the Hat Creek Ranch heritage site where we venture back in time to the 1860s for a glimpse into the history of this region. We then proceed to the scenic Fraser Canyon for a ride across the Fraser River on Hell's Gate Airtram, which offers a bird's eye-view of the point where the Fraser River squeezes through Hell's Gate, a narrow gorge where over 200 million gallons of water flow through every minute - twice the volume of Niagara Falls! We end our day in Vancouver.

Day 7: Vancouver. Our morning city tour includes Stanley Park, Gastown, Chinatown and much more. The afternoon is at leisure to stroll, shop, and explore this beautiful city on your own.

Day 8: Victoria. We take the scenic ferry ride to Victoria and upon arrival immediately proceed to the worldrenowned Butchart Gardens, where we can explore the 50-acre display of magnificent floral colour. We then proceed to downtown Victoria where we will see the Inner Harbour, the famed Empress Hotel, Legislative Buildings and Beacon Hill Park.

Day 9: Victoria. This morning we will enjoy a walking tour of Victoria's Inner Harbour with an entertaining local guide. The afternoon is at leisure to explore this quaint city on your own. With its turn-of-the-century buildings and tweed shops, you might think Victoria is a transplanted corner of Britain! Tonight we enjoy our Farewell Dinner.

Day 10: Home. We transfer to the airport for our Air Canada Rouge flight home.

Rocky Mountaineer Vancouver to Jasper by rail

The romance of travelling through the Rocky Mountains by train has always had immense appeal. For some, it is the only way to see what is considered one of the world's most spectacular regions.

The Rocky Mountaineer is considered one of the world's most spectacular rail experiences. As we enjoy the ultramodern comforts of our train, we'll follow the steps of the early explorers as the rails meander over trestle bridges, along rivers, and past waterfalls - all while in the shadows of the magnificent glacier-clad mountains. Onboard, our attendant will entertain us with interesting commentary, serve our meals, and ensure our utmost comfort.

We board the Rocky Mountaineer in Vancouver. On the first day we journey through the Fraser Valley and the towering Coastal Mountains. After an overnight hotel stay in Kamloops (we do not sleep on the train), we reboard the train enroute to Jasper. The train follows the Thompson River to the Monashee Mountains, passing expansive glaciers until we arrive in Jasper in the evening.

We offer two types of service aboard the Rocky Mountaineer: *Silver Leaf Service* includes hot breakfasts

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Rocky Mountaineer Rail tour. Complimentary wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks served throughout the rail journey
- Breakfast daily, 3 dinners and 2 lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg, in Silver Leaf Service - \$6997
- Upgrade to Gold Leaf Service \$790
- Single supplement \$1290
- Triples deduct \$150 per person
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$290
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver deduct \$400

<u>9 DAYS • 5 DATES IN 2024</u> JULY 13 - 21 JULY 27 - AUGUST 4 AUGUST 10 - 18 SEPTEMBER 14 - 22 SEPTEMBER 21 - 29 (Fall Colours)

and lunches served at your seat, as you enjoy the spectacular scenery through the oversized panoramic windows. *Gold Leaf Service* includes gourmet hot breakfasts and lunches served in the exclusive Gold Leaf Dining Room, and unparalleled panoramic views through the full-length dome windows. Both services include complimentary wine, beer, spirits and non-alcoholic drinks throughout the rail trip. Note - *Gold Leaf* passengers are separated from the main group during the journey.

Also included on this tour are 3 nights in Canada's most beautiful city, Vancouver, and 3 nights in Jasper National Park, with extensive touring and adventures throughout. **Day 1: Vancouver.** We fly to Vancouver and transfer to our First Class hotel located in the heart of downtown. The rest of the day is at leisure until our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Vancouver. Our city tour includes Stanley Park, Gastown, Chinatown and much more. A highlight of the day will be crossing the Lions Gate Bridge to visit the popular Capilano Suspension Bridge - an opportunity to walk across the 230 foot high bridge perched above the Capilano Canyon. The evening is at leisure to explore Vancouver - annually voted one of the world's favourite cities.

Day 3: Whistler / Vancouver. A spectacular drive on the Sea to Sky Highway takes us to beautiful Shannon Falls, where we stop for photos, and then to Whistler. This quaint alpine village is North America's most popular mountain resort. There will be free time to enjoy the fresh mountain air while strolling in the village with its appealing shops.

July and August tours - We will board Whistler's Peak-to-Peak Gondola and ride from the peak of Whistler Mountain to the peak of Blackcomb Mountain, and experience the spectacular panoramic views of the Whistler area and surrounding Coast Mountains.

September tours - We arrive in Whistler and, as the gondola is not operating, we will instead visit the awardwinning Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, which showcases the art and history of the First Nations People of this area.

Day 4: Rocky Mountaineer / Kamloops. Today we begin our journey aboard "The Most Spectacular Train Trip in the World". Breakfast and lunch are served onboard. On today's full-day rail tour we will pass through the fertile Fraser Valley and enjoy the natural beauty of the scenic Fraser Canyon. One of the canyon's highlights is Hell's Gate, where millions of gallons of water rush through the narrowest point of the canyon every minute. Then, following the Thompson River, we cross into Canada's arid interior, arrive in the city of Kamloops and transfer to our hotel for our overnight. **Day 5: Rocky Mountaineer / Jasper.** "All Aboard" as the Rocky Mountaineer departs and follows the Yellowhead Route to the charming town of Jasper. Breakfast and lunch are again served onboard. The train follows the Thompson River along the rolling plateaus into the snowy peaks of the Monashee and Cariboo Mountains. View Pyramid Falls and the expansive glaciers of the Albreda lcefields. As we enter the Rocky Mountain range we pass by Mt. Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies. In the early evening we arrive in Jasper and transfer to our hotel.

Day 6: Jasper. Our full day of wonderful Rocky Mountain experiences begins with an Interpretive Nature Walk conducted by an accredited local expert. Then our coach will take us along a beautiful stretch of highway teeming with wildlife to one of the most beautiful lakes in the Rockies (if not the world) - Maligne Lake. Here we will enjoy one of the highlights of the tour: a narrated cruise on the lake's crystal blue waters, surrounded by summits of 10,000 ft. and higher. This area is called the "Hall of the Gods", and for good reason! The cruise features a fantastic view of Spirit Island - one of the most photographed sites in the Canadian Rockies.

Day 7: Jasper. To begin the day we will be gently transported into Jasper's alpine tundra on the Jasper Tramway - the longest and highest guided aerial tramway in Canada. Enjoy the spectacular views of six mountain ranges, glacial-fed lakes, the Athabasca River and the scenic mountain town of Jasper. For the highlight of the day we'll embark on a leisurely raft trip down the Athabasca River, a route once used by fur traders. Here we will experience Jasper from a unique perspective as our guide will point out the natural and historic points of interest, as we take in the spectacular Rocky Mountain views on either side. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 8: Edmonton. We transfer to Edmonton, where we will enjoy a visit to the West Edmonton Mall before our Farewell Dinner.

Day 9: Home. Air Canada takes us home.

Victoria, BC Home and Garden Tour

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Superior accommodation as described
- Full breakfast daily
- 4 dinners and 3 lunches
- 2 Afternoon Teas
- Many guided excursions
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

Known as "The Garden City", Victoria enjoys a climate perfect for a wide variety of horticulture, and there are countless impressive gardens throughout the city and surrounding area representing a wide range of styles.

The annual flower count in the spring can be up to 8.5 billion blooms, and so the towns in the Greater Victoria area count their flower blooms in a friendly competition in order to be named the "Bloomingest Community". One of the city's most-recognizable trademarks is its hanging baskets. Each spring more than 1,600 flower baskets hang from lamp posts in a medley of colours. This tour is designed for the garden enthusiast to view the beautiful homes and splendid gardens of Southern Vancouver Island, all in full bloom! An expert garden guide will accompany us on all garden visits.

Our hotel in Victoria will be the *Royal Scot Hotel and Suites.* This superior 4-star, AAA 3-Diamond hotel is located one block from the Inner Harbour and within easy walking distance of the Legislative buildings and downtown. The hotel has an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna and exercise room. There is also an onsite restaurant and lounge, gift shop, guest laundry facilities, billiards and games room and free WiFi, as well as a free shuttle

12 DAYS • APRIL 28 - MAY 9

service that runs between the hotel and the downtown core for the exclusive convenience of hotel guests.

All hotel rooms have flat screen TVs, quality robes, electronic safe, iron and ironing boards and complimentary newspaper.

Three types of rooms are offered:

The *Standard Room* has 1 or 2 queen-size beds, small fridge, microwave, coffee maker, kettle, dishes & utensils.

The *Studio Suite* - ideal for couples or singles, has a comfortable seating area, fully equipped kitchen, dining table and chairs. The bedroom with a queen size bed is set apart with a partition wall.

The *One Bedroom Suite* has a separate bedroom (2 twins or 1 king bed) and living room. Your home away from home experience is complimented by a full kitchen and dining room.

* This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.

CANADA

Included Excursions in Victoria

- 1. A sightseeing tour of the highlights of Victoria including a stop to tour beautiful **Finnerty Gardens**. Finnerty has over 4,000 trees and shrubs including 1,500 rhododendron and azalea plants, and companion plants ferns, vines, groundcovers, ornamentals artistically displayed on the University of the Victoria's campus.
- 2. Join an informative talk on the wildlife and ecosystems found along BC's southern coast, before embarking on a **nature** walk to Beacon Hill Park with a local naturalist.
- 3. We visit Craigdarroch Castle, a Victorian-era Scottish Baronial mansion, designated a National Historic Site of Canada.
- 4. A fascinating guided walking tour of Victoria's downtown will focus on the French History in the area.
- 5. We visit the gardens of **Hatley Castle**, which were developed over 100 years ago and are now a National Historic Site and home of Royal Roads University. The four major gardens Japanese Garden, Formal Italian Garden, walled garden and Rose Garden are set in a classic Edwardian park design. A pub lunch is included today.
- 6. We tour Abkhazi Gardens an exquisite heritage home and garden, former residence of Prince and Princess Abkhazi of Georgia (formerly in Russia) who settled in Victoria. After touring the gardens, Afternoon Tea will be served in the former living room. In the afternoon we'll tour the beautiful Waterfront Garden and the award winning Four Seasons Garden voted Canada's #1 Residential Garden by Canadian Gardening Magazine. It was designed with attention to foliage combinations as well as sequence of bloom (first bloom is in January!) This garden is ever-evolving with new beds, hardscaping and new plants.
- 7. A walking tour of Victoria's fabled Inner Harbour area with an entertaining local guide.
- 8. Join in on an informative **talk with a professor of horticulture** to learn about the varieties in Canadian gardens from coast to coast. From trees to annuals, we can truly say that there are common plants that tie all Canadians together.
- We tour the beautiful gardens at Government House the official residence of British Columbia's Lieutenant Governor. Then we visit Ross Bay Villa Historic House - a fine example of 19th century Victorian architecture. Afternoon Tea is included today.
- 10. We visit the famous Butchart Gardens, a 50-acre showplace of numerous incredible gardens. Lunch at the Gardens is included. Later we visit the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific 9 acres of spectacular gardens with over 10,000 varieties of plants, along with the largest outdoor Bonsai garden in Canada. Landscaping techniques suitable to the Pacific Northwest are demonstrated.
- 11. We enjoy an **Emily Carr themed walking tour** which will take us through the famed painter's Victoria neighbourhood.

	COST per person, double occu	pancy, from Toro	nto
	Standard Room	- \$4497	
	Studio Suite - \$	4647	
	One Bedroom Suite	\$4797	
Single Supplement • St	ındard Room - \$790 🛛 • Studi	o Suite - \$990	• One Bedroom Suite - \$1190
	Montreal, or Halifax - add \$19 ton or Calgary - deduct \$200	1.0	

The Maritimes

With spectacular coastlines, picturesque villages and their own distinct culture, the Maritimes are a perennial hit with visitors.

We begin in Nova Scotia, where we visit the famous lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, the Fisheries Museum in Lunenburg and the historic Fortress of Louisburg. In Halifax we will cruise the harbour in a "tall ship", see the Exhibition Hall at Pier 21 - Canada's museum of immigration, and have a chance to sample the local beer at Alexander Keith's Brewery!

In Saint John, New Brunswick we explore the historic Loyalist Trail, the fascinating Reversing Falls and the scenic Fundy Trail on the Bay of Fundy - with some of the world's highest tides.

Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province and home of Anne of Green Gables (no less loved for being fictional), is renowned for its red soil, sand dunes and 800 kms of spotless white sand beaches. In Charlottetown, the Confederation Capital, we learn the important role this province played in the early history of Canada. We will also enjoy a performance at the Confederation Theatre.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- First Class hotels
- Full Breakfast daily
- 8 dinners, including a lobster dinner, and 2 dinners with entertainment
- Performance at the Confederation Theatre
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal - \$5997
- Single Supplement \$1490
- Triple reduction \$150 per person
- Halifax deduct \$500 (land only)
- Calgary or Vancouver add \$290
- Winnipeg or Edmonton add \$490

14 DAYS • 5 DATES IN 2024 AUGUST 2 - 15 AUGUST 9 - 22 AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 5 SEPTEMBER 6 - 19 SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 3

No trip to the Maritimes would be complete without a tour around the awe-inspiring Cabot Trail in scenic Cape Breton. The highway loops around the northern tip of Cape Breton Island, passing through charming communities offering breathtaking scenery.

As well as being one of the most beautiful and historic areas in North America, the spirit of hospitality found in the Maritimes is legendary. Come join us as we embark on an adventure that promises unforgettable experiences and memories to treasure.

* This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.

CANADA

Itinerary for The Maritimes

Day 1: Halifax. We fly to Halifax and transfer to our downtown hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure, until our Welcome Dinner this evening.

Day 2: Halifax. On our city tour of Halifax our kilted guide will tell tales of the past, present, and future of Nova Scotia's capital. We will walk through the Victorian Public Gardens and stop at the top of Citadel Hill to view the harbour and downtown area. Then we'll embark on Halifax's signature ship, the *Tall Ship Silva*, for a scenic cruise in Halifax Harbour. While on board this historic schooner, we'll see Halifax's most well-known landmarks including Georges Island, the Historic Properties, the vibrant waterfront, and more. If conditions are favourable, you'll be invited to join the crew in raising the sails!

Day 3: Peggy's Cove / Lunenberg / Annapolis Valley. Our first stop is at one of the most picturesque locations in the Maritimes, Peggy's Cove. This quaint, rustic inlet is famous for its neat houses, barren rocks, weathered wharves and a lighthouse point that offers a sweeping view of the ocean. Then we proceed to Lunenburg, home of the *Bluenose* (which can also be spotted on the back of the Canadian dime), and where we visit the Fisheries Museum with its fine collection of Maritime artifacts. We continue on to the Annapolis Valley.

Day 4: Annapolis Valley / Saint John. We travel along the historic Evangeline Trail and first stop at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site, made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, Evangeline. We then board the Fundy Rose ferry for a delightful cruise across the Bay of Fundy to the Loyalist City of Saint John.

Day 5: St. Andrew / Saint John. This morning's tour of Saint John includes the famous Loyalist Trail and the Reversing Falls, where the ocean waters rushing upstream form a whirling, foaming torrent. We spend the afternoon in the picturesque town of St. Andrew where you will have free time for lunch and shopping, then return to Saint John for our overnight.

Day 6: Hopewell Rocks / Moncton. Today we visit the impressive Hopewell Rocks. Take a moment to appreciate the intricacies of nature and explore the quiet coves with large flowerpot-shaped rock formations bearing such names as "Mother-in-Law", "ET" and "Lover's Arch". We continue to Moncton for our overnight.

Day 7: Prince Edward Island. We stop at Shediac, known as the Lobster Capital of the World, then drive across the Confederation Bridge to PEI and our hotel in Charlottetown. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy a musical performance at the Confederation Theatre.

Day 8: Prince Edward Island. Our guided tour of P.E.I. begins in Charlottetown and the historic Confederation Centre, where the Fathers of Confederation met during the Charlottetown Conference. Then we travel through the bright green rolling countryside and visit the home of Anne of Green Gables at Cavendish, and the famous wharf in North Rustico. Tonight we will enjoy a lobster dinner at a local restaurant (alternatives available).

Day 9: Baddeck. We return to Nova Scotia by ferry and proceed to the Bell Museum, where the famous inventor Alexander Graham Bell perfected his many inventions, and then on to Baddeck, located in the heart of Cape Breton's most picturesque area, for our overnight.

Day 10: Cabot Trail / Sydney. A full day tour of the scenic Cabot Trail. Nature lovers and photographers will have a field day with the meandering glens, rugged coastlines and the constantly pounding surf.

Day 11: Louisbourg / Sydney. We proceed to the impressive Fortress of Louisbourg for a guided visit. This National Historic Site was the largest historic reconstruction in Canada. This evening we will have dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a performance by local musicians.

Day 12: Halifax. We travel through some of the Scottish and English settlement towns like New Glasgow and Truro, as we drive from Sydney back to Halifax.

Day 13: Halifax. This morning we visit Pier 21 - an exhibit recreating the immigration experience. Innovative displays, evocative soundscapes and interactive technology bring many moving true stories to life. We then enjoy an informative tour of Alexander Keith's Brewery - the oldest working brewery in North America. After we learn about the beer, the brewery and life in Halifax in 1863, we visit Stag's Head Tavern to listen to toe-tapping music, and of course sample Keith's finest ale. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore on your own in Halifax - an excellent city for strolling. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Home. We fly home with Air Canada.

Newfoundland and Labrador

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Moderate accommodation (best available in most cases)
- Full Breakfast daily
- 8 dinners and 1 lunch
- Whale Watching Cruise and Gros Morne Cruise
- Theatre show and other local entertainment
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

Between the Old World heritage, scenery that changes mile by mile, the most spectacular coastline in Canada, quaint coastal villages and the smiling, friendly people who speak with an Irish lilt, you will find that Newfoundland is truly a very special place.

On this tour we will explore all four regions of the province: the beautiful Northern Peninsula where the Vikings landed ten centuries ago; the Central and Eastern Regions with their wilderness forests and seaside villages; the Avalon Region featuring the historic capital of St. John's; and an overnight in Labrador - one of the world's last great wilderness areas. Highlights of our visit to Newfoundland will be a fjord cruise in Gros Morne National Park and a Whale Watching Cruise.

After this tour, which showcases the best of "The Rock's" hospitality, we have no doubt that you will want to return to visit Newfoundland.

COST	per person, double occupancy,
	from Toronto or Montreal - \$5997
•••••	

- Single Supplement \$990 Triples deduct \$150
 - Halifax deduct \$200
 - Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$190

14 DAYS • 16 DATES IN 2024
June 7 - 20
June 14 - 27
June 21 - July 4
June 28 - July 11
July 5 - 18
July 12 - 25
July 15 - 28
July 19 - August 1
July 26 - August 8
August 2 - 15
August 9 - 22
August 12 - 25
August 19 - September 1
August 26 - September 8
September 6 - 19
September 13 - 26

Itinerary for Newfoundland and Labrador

Day 1: Corner Brook. We fly to Deer Lake, Newfoundland. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in Corner Brook.

Day 2: Corner Brook. Our city tour includes Captain Cook's Lookout for a spectacular view over the city and the Bay of Islands. We then enjoy the scenic drive along the Captain Cook Trail to the charming fishing village of Lark Harbour. This afternoon we visit the Corner Brook Museum with its outstanding display of old maps and memorabilia from this area's logging and fishing heritage.

Day 3: Gros Morne National Park / Northern Peninsula.

Today we tour Gros Morne National Park with its dramatically beautiful scenery. We will enjoy an entertaining boat crossing on lovely Bonne Bay, stop for the spectacular view at Lobster Cove lighthouse, and see the famous Arches carved by the pounding ocean. We then proceed to our hotel on the Northern Peninsula.

Day 4: L'Anse aux Meadows / St. Anthony. We first visit L'Anse aux Meadows, the fascinating historic site of North America's first Viking Settlement. Next is the Grenfell Centre, commemorating the life of medical missionary Sir Wilfred Grenfell. We proceed to our hotel in St. Anthony.

Day 5: Labrador. This morning we take the ferry from St. Barbe across to Labrador (one and a half hours). Our sightseeing in Labrador includes Point Amour Lighthouse - the tallest in Atlantic Canada, and Red Bay Whaling Station - a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was a major site of Basque whaling in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Day 6: Gros Morne National Park. We ferry back to Newfoundland and return to beautiful Gros Morne National Park, this time for a two-night stay.

Day 7: Gros Morne National Park. We spend the day in the park and see some of the world's most unique geological features (the park is also designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Included is a cruise inside an ancient fjord on Western Brook Pond (weather permitting). Tonight we attend the Gros Morne Theatre Festival for some fine local entertainment.

Day 8: Gander. We begin with a visit of King's Point Whale Pavilion to see the impressive 52-foot humpback whale skeleton on display. We will have time at the popular Pottery Museum and Shop, and then enjoy a delicious "Lunch By the Sea" overlooking Green Bay. We continue to Grand Falls for a visit of the Salmonid Interpretation Centre - one of North America's largest fishing projects.

This evening we will enjoy a visit and talk by the former mayor of Gander who will describe the experience of how the townspeople opened their homes to thousands of stranded travellers on 9/11/2001, as depicted in the popular play "Come From Away".

Day 9: Twillingate / Gander. Our first stop is the Beothuk Interpretation Centre to learn of the indigenous people of the island. We then travel along the Road to the Isles to the rugged north coast and the fishing villages on Notre Dame Bay. We continue to Twillingate - one of the oldest seaports in Newfoundland and still a fishing and sealing town. Here we visit the Twillingate Museum with its fine collection of antiques, and St. Peter's - the oldest wooden church in Newfoundland. This evening we enjoy a "Jiggs" dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 10: Clarenville. We travel through Terra Nova Provincial Park and on to the picturesque historical fishing port of Trinity - first used by fishing ships around the 16th century and recognized for its beautiful heritage buildings. Our overnight is in nearby Clarenville.

Day 11: St. John's. We travel along the rugged coastline past scenic Conception Bay. We stop in Heart's Content to visit the Cable Station, then continue on to St. John's.

Day 12: St. John's. St. John's is one of North America's oldest settlements. Our city tour will trace this history and will include a visit to Signal Hill with its striking view of the city and historic port. Afternoon at leisure to explore this friendly, charming city. You may want to stroll in Old St. John's to shop for local handicrafts.

Day 13: Whale Watching / St. John's. We embark on an exhilarating marine wildlife adventure to Witless Bay Reserve - home to thousands of puffins and the best whale watching in North America. On the way back to St. John's, we stop at Cape Spear - the most easterly point of land in North America. This historic sight was, in WWII, used as a strategic defense position against Nazi submarines. The rugged scenery here is spectacular. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner featuring a traditional "Screech-In".

Day 14: Home. We fly home from St. John's.

California Here We Come, and Las Vegas

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full American breakfast daily
- 7 dinners and 2 lunches
- "Wow The Vegas Spectacular"
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7797
- Single Supplement \$1790
- Triples deduct \$200 per person
- Vancouver deduct \$400
 - * Add-ons from the gateways below include an overnight in Toronto or Vancouver en route to California
- Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$390
- Calgary or Edmonton no added cost

Starting in San Francisco, we'll explore the Golden State's stunning coastline and finish in Las Vegas -Entertainment Capital of the World!

Tour Highlights:

- San Francisco: Known for its hilly landscape, the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, colourful Victorian houses and the historic Fisherman's Wharf. Look for Alcatraz Island across the bay - site of the notorious former prison.
- Redwood Forest: Historic Steam Rail journey
- Monterey: Cannery Row, one-time center of the sardine-packing industry, and immortalized by John Steinbeck in his novel of the same name. Equally famous is the Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- San Simeon: Home to the legendary Hearst Castle.

12 DAYS • MAY 10 - 21

- 17 Mile Drive: One of California's top scenic drives beautiful beaches, sea lions, the famed Lone Cypress, huge mansions and championship golf courses.
- Solvang: A quaint Danish village.
- Santa Barbara: The "American Riviera".
- Los Angeles / Hollywood and Beverly Hills: "The City of Angels" is home to America's film and TV industry.
- Las Vegas Red Rock Canyon a 13-mile drive featuring spectacular scenery.
- Las Vegas Glitter Gulch, with a top-rated show.
- * This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.

Itinerary for California Here We Come

Day 1: Departure / San Francisco. We depart for San Francisco. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city, with time at leisure before our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: San Francisco. We tour "America's Favourite City", starting with a casual walking tour of Chinatown. Then we see Ghirardelli Square, Fisherman's Wharf and other famous sights before crossing the Golden Gate Bridge and stopping for panoramas of San Francisco and the Bay area. In Marin County we will see one of America's wealthiest communities, and the picturesque town of Sausalito.

Day 3: Alcatraz / San Francisco. This morning we cruise on San Francisco Bay to Alcatraz Island and the infamous former federal prison, which was home to the likes of Al Capone, "Machine Gun" Kelly and Robert "The Birdman" Stroud. There are videos, self-guided walks, an audio tour and talks on topics such as "Famous Escapes". Afternoon at leisure to explore San Francisco at your own pace.

Day 4: Redwood Forest / Salinas / Carmel. En route to Carmel we stop by the Redwoods State Park to board a historic Steam Rail ride through the majestic old-growth Redwood forest. After a western-style lunch we'll walk through this treasured forest, then proceed to Salinas, birthplace of author John Steinbeck, to visit the Steinbeck Center - a multi-media museum which brings to life his novels and personal world. Then we continue to the oceanside artisan town of Carmel for a 2-night stay.

Day 5: Monterey / Carmel. We visit historic Monterey, California's old capital, to see Steinbeck's Cannery Row and visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium - the largest aquarium in the west. Then we proceed to Carmel, considered the most beautiful spot on the coast. See why, as we drive along the Del Monte Forest 17 Mile Drive, famed for its lavish mansions built by tycoons in the roaring 1920's. The views of the sea and rugged coastline are unsurpassed.

Day 6: Big Sur, Hearst Castle and Solvang. We continue the thrilling drive down the Pacific Coast Highway (acclaimed as the most beautiful drive in North America) where the mountains drop steeply to the sea. Passing the fantastic Pacific panoramas of Big Sur, we arrive at San Simeon, home of the famous Hearst Castle, which was home to the fabulously wealthy William Randolph Hearst, and we'll explore this small but eye-popping kingdom of castles, fountains and European art treasures. We overnight in Solvang, reminiscent of a quaint Danish town.

Day 7: Solvang. Today we explore Solvang - "Sunny Field" in Danish, with its charming Danish architecture and food. First, we board a replica 1800's Danish streetcar for a narrated tour, including Danish folk tales and cultural notes. We'll stop at the Elverhøj Museum of History & Art, a gem in the heart of the city which documents the history of Solvang, Danish culture, and the Danish-American immigrant experience. We will have time to explore and sample Danish specialties. Be sure you stop at Olsen's Village Bakery to savour a treat known as "the Kringle".

Day 8: Santa Barbara / Los Angeles. We drive down the coast to Santa Barbara, noted for its architectural beauty. We'll enjoy a guided stroll through the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens, followed by a visit to the historic downtown before proceeding to LA for a 2-night stay.

Day 9: Los Angeles. On our tour of Los Angeles we will pass by famous sights such as historic Olvera Street (the "cradle" of LA), Rodeo Drive, Sunset Strip, Beverly Hills and more. Our walking tour will take us into the heart of Hollywood where we will see those famous celebrity hand and footprints on the Walk of Fame, and also Awards Walk home to the Academy Awards. Then we will head over to the Farmer's Market, followed by a visit of the famous Getty Museum - an architectural landmark with breathtaking views and a world-renowned art collection.

Day 10: Las Vegas. We proceed to Las Vegas, and this evening we enjoy the internationally acclaimed show, "Wow – The Vegas Spectacular". Prepare to be transported into a world of fantasy with water walls, holograms, breathtaking acrobatics, dazzling choreography, and magnificent music!

Day 11: Las Vegas. We begin with a visit to scenic Red Rock Canyon, with its dramatic sandstone rock formations. Then we return to the city and Glitter Gulch - the old downtown section, and "The Strip" with its theme hotels featuring volcanoes, a spectacular water show, and replicas of the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, and the Pyramids. We'll visit the world-class "Mob Museum", and learn about the history of the underground's role in creating and running this city. We'll also have a taste of Prohibition times in an old speakeasy - secretive operations which satisfied the nation's thirst for forbidden spirits. Enjoy some free time before our Farewell Dinner tonight!

Day 12: Home. We fly home with Air Canada.

U.S.A.

Bourbon

isun

Music City to the Big Easy

Nashville New Orleans Memphis

• Natchez, Mississippi

Join us on a journey through the musical heart of America, better known as "The Mojo Triangle". This legendary area, between Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans is the musical birthplace of Country, Blues, Jazz & Rock 'n' Roll.

We begin with a 4-night stay in Nashville – the "Country Music Capital of the World", also known as "Music City". The best performers of all musical genres play here at over 120 live music venues throughout the city.

Then, after a stop at Graceland, it's off to Memphis -Birthplace of the Blues and Rock 'n' Roll. A musician-led Mojo Tour will have us laughing and singing along.

In Mississippi we'll stay in the beautiful antebellum town of Natchez, with a visit to a memorable plantation home.

Then we continue to New Orleans for a 4-night stay in a central French Quarter hotel. The city that gave the world Jazz, Bourbon Street, Creole culture and Oysters Rockefeller has a style and history all its own. There will be plenty of time to stroll the romantic old-world streets, Jackson Square and The French Market.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full Breakfast daily (except for the day of the Jazz Brunch)
- 10 dinners, 2 lunches, Jazz Brunch
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 COST:
- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7397
- Single Supplement \$1790

* All gateway add-ons include Toronto overnights in each direction

- Montreal add \$490
- Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, or Halifax - add \$690
- Edmonton add \$990

12 DAYS • APRIL15 - 26

Tour Highlights:

- Stay at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville
- Grand Ole Opry performance
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Lunch and Cruise on the General Jackson Showboat
- Wildhorse Saloon line dancing
- "Soul of Nashville' show at the Ryman Auditorium
- Graceland tour
- Mojo Memphis singing tour
- Plantation home carriage tour and Southern dinner
- New Orleans Jazz Brunch
- Cajun Swamp tour
- New Orleans Cooking School dinner
- French Quarter and Cemetery tour
- Jazz music at the legendary Preservation Hall

Day 1: Nashville. We depart for Nashville, and upon arrival transfer to the *Gaylord Opryland Resort* where we will experience some of that famous Southern hospitality.

Day 2: Nashville. Our city tour includes visits to the Country Music Hall of Fame, with its musical exhibits that showcase Nashville's contribution to the song-writing and recording industry, as well as the Historic RCA Studio, where Elvis recorded many songs. We'll also stroll down the Music City Walk of Fame and along Honky Tonk Highway. Tonight we enjoy a boot-stomping dinner at one of Nashville's historic Honky Tonks, renowned for their lively and contagious music.

Day 3: Nashville. We begin with a visit of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, a beautiful historic Tennessee farm, and learn about the humble beginnings of this man who became one of America's most visionary presidents. Then we step aboard The General Jackson Showboat - a paddlewheel riverboat (the largest showboat in the country) - for an afternoon of great food, entertainment and wonderful views. Tonight we enjoy a dinner and show at the famed Grand Ole Opry and then get behind the scenes with a backstage tour.

Day 4: Nashville. We begin with the new "Soul of Nashville" experience at the historic Ryman Auditorium, known as the Mother Church of Country Music. Then we will drive through some of the most elite neighbourhoods in Nashville and see the homes of the movers and shakers of this vibrant city.

Day 5: Graceland / Memphis. En route to Memphis we'll stop at Graceland - home of Elvis Presley. We will tour his house, cars and even jets before continuing to our hotel in central Memphis.

Day 6: Memphis. We begin with a special musical "Mojo tour" of Memphis, singing along with the guide. Included are visit to Sun Studio, the Rock 'n' Roll Museum and the Civil Rights Museum. Then we'll walk and explore the historic downtown including Beale Street - famous for blues music and one of the world's most interesting streets - rich with stories of musical legends, gangsters and Civil War heroes. Don't forget to watch the famous "Peabody Duck March". This evening we return to Beale Street for dinner, music and lively street entertainment.

Day 7: Natchez. We proceed to photogenic and historic Natchez, Mississippi - an antebellum town on the Mississippi River. After a horse-drawn carriage tour of the city, we'll visit the historic Glenfield Plantation home. We will be welcomed by the 5th generation owner who will guide us through her fine Southern home and serve up an authentic Southern dinner.

Day 8: Natchez / New Orleans. Following our Southern Breakfast at our hotel, we drive to the river for a tour of Frogmore Plantation and Gin - designated one of the top mustsee destinations in the south! Frogmore is a working cotton plantation that takes us from the 1850's (when the plantation was worked by slaves), to a modern-day computerized gin. Enjoy the stories and join in with the music, pick a bowl of cotton, visit the slave cabins and learn about plantation life. Back aboard the coach, listen to specially recorded blues, ragtime and jazz music on our way to the Delta Music Museum. Here we learn about the unforgettable lives of Jerry Lee Lewis, Aaron Neville, Conway Twitty, Fats Domino and others as we listen to their music. Then we proceed to the Jazz Capital – New Orleans, and our hotel in the heart of the French Quarter!

Day 9: New Orleans Walking Tour. We begin the day with a lively Jazz Brunch at the landmark Court of Two Sisters, followed by a walking tour through the historic streets and alleys of the French District, including the world-famous Bourbon Street with its remarkable architecture and hidden courtyards. Bourbon Street abounds with colourful characters including musicians, magicians, voodoo practitioners and artists. We'll stop at the French Market, take a trolley ride along River/Canal Street and enjoy a Tour and Tasting of the famous traditional Sazerac cocktail at the Sazerac House. Then, we'll hop aboard Pedi-cabs that will whisk us to Preservation Hall — founded over 60 years ago to preserve New Orleans jazz - where we'll enjoy an acoustic Jazz concert. This evening you may wish to enjoy one of the many local eateries or stop in at Pat O'Brian's for a famed "Hurricane" cocktail.

Day 10: New Orleans. Today we'll experience how this melting pot of French, Spanish, African and Cajun peoples is reflected in the architecture, cuisine and culture of the city. We will drive through the beautiful Garden District, visit one of the unique above-ground cemeteries and learn about the supernatural beliefs of many of the city's inhabitants. We'll hear stories about Marie Laveau - known as the Voodoo Queen - and novelist Anne Rice, the famous story-teller of New Orleans. We'll finish the day with a visit to Mardi Gras World and learn about the history of the city's claim to fame: Carnival and Mardi Gras! This evening we'll watch and learn about the local cuisine and enjoy dinner at the famous New Orleans Cooking School.

Day 11: Swamp Tour / New Orleans. Today's highlight is an adventurous Swamp Tour - an oppportunity to see the flora and fauna of this special area, and the dense moss-covered trees that add to the atmosphere. Our included lunch will feature the specialty of the area - andouille sausage. This evening is our Farewell Dinner at the legendary Tujagues Restaurant.

Day 12: Return. Air Canada Rouge flies us back to Canada.

Towns and Villages of Quebec

Departs from Toronto, Burlington, Whitby, and Kingston

There is good reason why Quebec is known as "La Belle Province"!

While the splendour of its cities, towns and countryside have enticed artists including the Group of Seven, Quebec's history, delicious cuisine and that sense of "joie de vivre", unique in North America have seduced visitors to return again and again.

Our journey begins and ends with stays in the vibrant city of Montreal, beloved for its delightful mixture of old and new. Montreal has great shopping, cafes, museums and beautifully-restored buildings, especially in the Old Montreal quarter along its historic waterfront.

After Montreal, we explore the nearby Eastern Township region, a veritable country paradise with mountains and valleys that are home to the most picturesque villages and rural landscapes – and the setting of Louise Penny's wildly-popular mystery novels. We will enjoy quality wines and delicious food proudly produced in this region.

We then enjoy a 2-night stay in Quebec City, one of Canada's outstanding cities and, with over 400 years of history, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Fall under the charm of the walled city's cobbled streets lined

• Transportation by deluxe coach

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- equipped with Wi-Fi
- Moderate and First Class hotels
- 9 breakfasts, 7 dinners and 1 lunch
- Charlevoix Train Journey
- Whale Watching Cruise
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except round-trip airfare if required)

COST:

- \$3997 per person, double occupancy
- Single Supplement \$990
- Triples deduct \$70 per person

10 DAYS • JUNE 11 - 20

with art galleries, artisan shops, and bistros. Enjoy the clip-clop of the horse-drawn carriages as you stroll on the Governor's Promenade which offers spectacular views of the St. Lawrence and Orleans Island - known as the garden of Quebec with its typical New France architecture, rural traditions and gorgeous scenery over the Montmorency Falls and Quebec City skyline.

Next we travel through the picturesque Charlevoix region. A highlight of the tour will be our scenic train journey along the Beaupré hills and the St. Lawrence River coastline, where we will see historic hamlets and the shores where hundreds of migrating birds come to rest and feed. We will visit the pretty village of Baie-Saint-Paul, where a thriving artist community exhibits colourful and dazzling interpretations of the surrounding landscape. We will stay in Tadoussac, a village on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, site of the first trading post in Canada, and now renowned worldwide as a prime holiday resort. Visitors come from around the world to whale-watch in this pristine environment — an unforgettable experience! **Day 1: Departure / Montreal.** We depart for Montreal. Upon arrival we check-in at our centrally-located hotel. Later, we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Montreal / Magog. We begin the day with a sightseeing tour of Montreal's highlights; Mount Royal, lively Sainte-Catherine Street, Notre-Dame Basilica and authentically-charming Old Montreal. This afternoon we depart for the Eastern Townships with a scenic stop on Quebec's wine route to enjoy a visit and tasting at a renowned winery. We continue on to our resort hotel nestled by a scenic lake.

Day 3: Magog. Our first visit is to St-Benoit Abbey, where we learn about the lives of the more than fifty cloistered monks living under the Rule of St. Benedict. We then visit the town of Stansted, home to some magnificent 19th-century buildings (and considered one of Quebec's most beautiful villages). The town straddles what's been called the friendliest border in the world including the famous CANUSA Street, with the border actually running down the middle of the road! We will visit the Colby-Curtis Museum - a heritage house built in the 19th century. After today's touring we will enjoy some free time in the charming town of Magog with its numerous shops, cafés and pleasant lakeside promenade.

Day 4: Quebec City. We depart for Quebec's capital, Quebec City, for a 2-night stay. We'll begin our stay with a guided tour of the city's most famous sights including Place Royal, Little Champlain Quarter, the Plains of Abraham and the port where so many newcomers first set foot in this new land after their long crossing over the Atlantic.

Day 5: Quebec City. This morning we will drive through picturesque Orleans Island. These country roads are full of history, old architecture and pastoral landscapes – truly a regional jewel! We will visit a historic home and the Bilodeau Orchard where cider making is an art form passed down through generations. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Old Quebec's enchanting streets, boutiques and museums - all within walking distance of our hotel. **Day 6: Quebec City / Tadoussac.** A short drive takes us first to Montmorency Falls - a magnificent cascade 100 feet higher than Niagara! Then, for what may be the highlight of the tour, we board a train that will take us along the St. Lawrence River and through the beautiful Charlevoix region. Enroute we will stop in Baie-Saint-Paul - a charming little town of artisans nestled in a valley. Here we will have some free time to visit the many art galleries in town and enjoy lunch at one of the quaint bistros. We continue by coach on our scenic route to our final destination, Tadoussac at the mouth of the Saguenay Fjord.

Day 7: Tadoussac. Today we enjoy another tour highlight a whale-watching cruise on the magnificent St. Lawrence River, renowned for its large concentration of resident belugas and rorqual whales. The afternoon will be at leisure to take in the beauty of the site, stroll on the beach or one of the picturesque walking trails by our hotel, or perhaps visit the Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre.

Day 8: Montreal. We depart for Montreal. Enroute we will drive on the first road built in New France, Le chemin du Roi (the King's Road), where we can see some of the area's finest and oldest homes. We then stop for lunch at an authentic and lively Quebecois sugar shack, where we will enjoy some traditional "reel" and "rigidons" music, as well as a taste of maple taffy on snow! This evening we will have the opportunity to try our luck at The Montreal Casino, brimming with the vitality so characteristic of one of North America's most exciting cities.

Day 9: Montreal. This morning we visit Montreal's Botanical Gardens, ranked as one of the world's largest and most spectacular gardens with its collection of 22,000 plant species, 10 exhibition greenhouses and some thirty thematic gardens. The afternoon is free to visit one of the city's many museums, do some fine shopping or simply enjoy the view from one of the city's many terraces. Tonight enjoy our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 10. Home. We proceed home bringing with us fine memories of La Belle Province.

Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula and Splendours of the St. Lawrence River

Departs from Toronto, Burlington,Whitby, and Kingston

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Transportation by deluxe coach with Wi-Fi
- First Class and moderate hotels (*Chateau Laurier* in Quebec City)
- 10 breakfasts 1 lunch, and 7 dinners (including a lobster dinner)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except airfare if required)

COST:

- \$4297 per person, double occupancy
- Single Supplement \$1290
- Triples deduct \$70 per person

The beauty of the Canadian coastline is legendary, especially in Quebec where it combines both the majestic St. Lawrence River and the rugged Atlantic.

Explorers and scientists alike have been dazzled by the beauty, bio-diversity and colossal size of the St. Lawrence. The river consists of over 1,200 kms of waterways dotted with charming villages, rolling hills, farmland, picturesque coves and quaint inlets.

On this delightful tour we will enjoy the fresh sea air as we explore the scenic route along the south shore of the St. Lawrence, including the loop around the extraordinary Gaspé Peninsula. At this isolated promontory, which boasts one of the most stunning coastlines in Canada, you will see remnants of a colourful colonial past, as well as rusting shipwrecks and migratory whales. Just like the whales, centuries of visitors including Normans, Bretons, Basques and Portuguese have been attracted to the rich fishing grounds here; while English, Scottish and Irish

11 DAYS • 2 DATES IN 2024 AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 3 SEPTEMBER 11 - 21

fugitives settled on the south shore during upheavals back home including Ireland's Great Famine. Small communities of colourful farm buildings and silver-spired churches contribute to the striking landscape, not to mention the famous "pierced rock" at Percé, glacierpatterned cliffs, endless beaches, mountainous, forested hinterlands and the breathtaking Parc Forillon.

Hotels for this tour have been carefully selected based on location, and, as they are family-owned, we're sure to experience the hospitality and "joie de vivre" the local inhabitants are so well known for. Our meals will feature regional local specialties. **Day 1: Departure / Montreal.** We depart by coach for Montreal. Upon arrival we check-in to our centrally-located hotel, and enjoy our Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2: Montreal. We begin with a sightseeing tour of Montreal's highlights: Mount Royal, lively Sainte-Catherine Street, Notre-Dame Cathedral and picturesque Old Montreal. In the afternoon, we will take a guided cruise on the St. Lawrence River from the Old Port of Montreal to the Boucherville islands, and learn about the maritime history of this fascinating city.

Day 3: Rivière-du-Loup. Our first stop today is Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. For generations, the local artisans here have depicted French Canadian customs through sculptures displayed throughout the village. We will visit the Woodcarving Interpretation Centre and enjoy some time at leisure. Later we continue to Rivière-du-Loup on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Day 4: Carleton-Sur-Mer. We continue along the St. Lawrence through the picturesque Matapédia Valley renowned for its salmon rivers, heritage homes, historic churches and covered bridges. We enter the Gaspé Peninsula and this afternoon visit Miguasha National Park - a UNESCO World Heritage Site where you will see incredibly well-preserved plant and fish fossils from the Devonian period some 380 million years ago. We overnight in Carleton-Sur-Mer, in the heart of the Baie-Des-Chaleurs.

Day 5: Percé. Today we enjoy the views of picturesque centuries-old fishing villages, pristine rivers and mountains as we follow the shores of Chaleur Bay - a member of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club. Enroute we visit the Banc-de-Pêche-de Paspébiac historic site which once belonged to Jersey's most important dry salted cod exporting company. We will learn about the history of fisheries in Canada through artifacts and live story-telling. Then we head to charming Percé village, with the famous nearby Percé Rock rising out of the sea. We will visit Percé's new attraction, Geopark. Supported by UNESCO, the park features a suspended glass walkway offering spectacular views over Percé Rock, and walking trails to other local geological wonders. We will enjoy a 2-night stay in this wonderful place. Tonight we enjoy a dinner of fresh lobster at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Percé. This morning we enjoy an unforgettable cruise around Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island, where we can view the spectacle of 250,000 nesting birds (including puffins) on the rugged cliffs. You may want to disembark on the Island for a close encounter with the largest community of Northern Gannets in North America. The afternoon is at leisure to either enjoy a nature walk on Bonaventure Island or Percé Rock, or to take in the spectacular views from the promenade along the seafront, lively with boutiques and cafés.

Day 7: Matane. We enjoy the scenic drive around the Gaspé Peninsula, with its perfect blend of sea and mountains, coastal villages and sheltered fishing coves. Enroute we visit the Musée de la Gaspésie, and then venture into Forillon National Park, bordered by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Gaspé Bay. The scenery is stunning with boreal forest, unique geological formations and abundant wildlife. Later we travel to Matane, famous for its Nordic shrimps, windmills and the Matane River - the only place in Quebec where you can fish in the town square!

Day 8: Reford Gardens / Kamouraska / Quebec City. Our first stop is Reford Gardens, a labour of love and internationally renowned as an exceptional horticultural achievement with its 3,000 native and exotic plants. Then we visit the town of Kamouraska, with its old-world charm, ancestral homes and mesmerizing seascape. There will be some free time to enjoy some smoked eel or browse in the handicraft shops. We end this wonderful day in charming Quebec City for a 2-night stay by the old city walls.

Day 9: Quebec City. On our guided city tour we see Place Royal, little Champlain Quarter, the Plains of Abraham and more. In the afternoon we visit the iconic Château Frontenac for a guided tour, followed by a special lunch overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The rest of the day is free to explore Old Quebec's enchanting streets, historic buildings and views of the majestic St. Lawrence River from the Governor's Promenade.

Day 10: Montreal. We proceed to Montreal, for an afternoon at leisure. Your Tour Manager will be happy to provide suggestions. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 11: Ontario. We bid au revoir to La Belle Province and return to Ontario by coach.

New York, New York Departs from Toronto and Burlington

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Transportation by deluxe coach equipped with Wi-Fi
- First Class hotel (in the heart of Times Square in New York City!)
- 4 full hot breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Broadway play the Neil Diamond musical *"A Beautiful Noise"*
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except round-trip airfare if required)

COST:

- per person, double occupancy \$2997
- Single Supplement \$790
- Triples deduct \$100 per person

Immerse yourself in New York City on this special tour and you'll see why it's like no other place on earth.

Only in "The Big Apple" will you find all of America's best attributes - diversity, culture, and style - intensified in such an intriguing way. Our tour will feature all of the highlights: the Empire State Building; Statue of Liberty; Rockefeller Center; Times Square; Brooklyn Bridge; Soho; Central Park and much more. In addition to our sightseeing tours, we'll enjoy a harbour cruise, plenty of time for shopping and take in the Neil Diamond musical, A Beautiful Noise.

After an overnight enroute in upstate New York, we continue on to our First Class hotel in the heart of Times Square for a 3-night stay. Our hotel is the *New York Marriott Marquis*, located near some of the city's most exciting attractions, including Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall and the Theater District.

5 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024

MAY 4 - 8 MAY 11 - 15

Tour Highlights:

- Central Park
- World Trade Center Observatory
- Empire State and Chrysler Buildings
- Harbour Cruise to the Statue of Liberty
- Trump Tower
- Rockefeller Center
- Times Square
- Wall Steet
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Broadway musical A Beautiful Noise

Day 1: Departure / Albany, NY. We depart from pre-determined pick-up points in the Toronto and Hamilton areas. After crossing the border, we travel through New York State to our overnight stopover in Albany, NY. Tonight we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: New York City Tour. We proceed to New York and upon arrival we begin our first city tour which will include Times Square, Central Park and much more. This afternoon we embark on a narrated harbour cruise to the Statue of Liberty. Our on-board guide will bring New York's sights and fascinating history to life while we enjoy views of the world's most famous skyline. We will enjoy dinner at a downtown restaurant before proceeding to our hotel, the *Marriott Marquis*.

Day 3: New York City Tour. A full day of sightseeing in the "Big Apple". Our guided panoramic tour will take in the major highlights; the Chrysler Building, Rockefeller Center, Soho and the famous shops of Fifth Avenue. We also see some beautiful views of the Brooklyn Bridge. We then continue to the One World Observatory of the World Trade Center and take the elevator to the top for the world-famous city views.

Tonight we hit Broadway and enjoy the hit show *A Beautiful Noise* - the story of how the legendary Neil Diamond became a "national treasure" comes to life on stage in this uplifting new Broadway musical. The show features Neil's hit songs including "Sweet Caroline", "America", "Cracklin' Rosie" and many more. **Day 4: New York City.** A day at leisure for sightseeing and shopping. Perhaps take the ferry to Staten Island, explore the artist enclave of Greenwich Village or visit one of the countless museums the city has to offer. Your Tour Manager will happy to provide suggestions. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 5: Return Home. We cross the border back into Canada, with a stop at the Duty-Free Shop. We arrive at the Toronto / Hamilton areas in the early evening.



America's capital is an exciting city that combines grand government landmarks with musuems, monuments and memorials.

A city steeped in history, power, intrigue and beauty, Washington has broad, tree-lined streets and imposing monuments of founders and heroes, as well as the White House, home to U.S. Presidents since 1800.

We enjoy our first taste of history enroute to Washington as we visit the Gettysburg National Military Park. The famous battle here was a turning point in the Civil War, and was the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address.

Our touring in Washington includes the famous highlights: the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Capitol Hill, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and more. We also have the opportunity to visit one of the 19 museums that form the Smithsonian Institute.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Transportation by deluxe coach with Wi-Fi
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily (except for 1 dinner)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except, of course, round-trip airfare)

COST:

- per person, double occupancy \$2597
- Single Supplement \$690
- Triples deduct \$50 per person

6 DAYS • MAY 2 - 7

Our hotel in the Washington area will be the First Class *Hilton McLean Tyson Corner,* located in McLean, Virginia a quick drive over the Potomac River from Washington. The hotel has a restaurant, fitness centre and indoor pool, and all guest rooms have a TV, coffee maker, hair dryer and complimentary WiFi.

After our visit to Washington we travel to the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia. Our touring here will show us the birthplace of American independence, including the historic Liberty Bell, Philadelphia's landmark, as well as Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Itinerary for Washington

Day 1: Departure. We depart and drive through New York State, overnighting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Day 2: Gettysburg / Washington. We continue on our scenic drive to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We stop at Gettysburg National Military Park where a guide will conduct us through the famous Civil War battlefield. Then we proceed to Washington for a 3-night stay.

Day 3: Washington. Today we will have a full-day guided tour of Washington, during which we will see the National Mall, Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, the Washington Monument, Capitol Hill, the U.S. Capital Building, the White House and much more. A tram tour of Arlington Cemetery is included.

Day 4: Washington. Today's touring begins at the Smithsonian Institute, where you have the choice of visiting one of 19 museums or the National Zoo to visit at your leisure. We will then stop at George Washington's home in Mount Vernon for a tour of the house and grounds. There will be some time at leisure in the afternoon to shop or visit or revisit one of the many attractions or museums in the U.S. capital. At night, all of Washington's monuments are brilliantly illuminated, so after dinner we will enjoy an Illumination Tour of the city. **Day 5: Philadelphia**. We head for Philadelphia, where we will stop for lunch and enjoy a city tour. Famous sights here include Elfreth's Alley, Christ Church, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the waterfront at Penn's Landing, the many landmarks in the Historic District and the Philadelphia Museum of Art - home to Rocky's statue and the famous steps! After our tour we check in to our hotel in central Philadelphia. This evening is our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Home. We continue our drive back to Burlington and Toronto, and following our stop at the Duty-Free Store, we arrive in the early evening.

Cape Cod Plus Boston, Nantucket Island and Newport, Rhode Island

Departs from Toronto and Burlington

Cape Cod is a pine-scented, sea swept peninsula that extends its arm out into the Atlantic Ocean.

With its dune-lined beaches, atmospheric towns full of shingled thatched cottages, charming seafood restaurants and rustic, laid back appeal, it's no wonder that Cape Cod has been one of the most popular holiday destinations on the east coast of the U.S. for generations.

We hope that like us, you'll fall in love with Old Cape Cod.

Tour Highlights:

- Plymouth Rock
- Sandwich
- Cruise to Nantucket Island
- Excursion to Newport, Rhode Island

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Transportation by deluxe coach equipped with Wi-Fi
- Moderate accommodation
- 6 full breakfasts and 6 dinners
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except round-trip airfare if required)

COST:

- per person, double occupancy \$2797
- Single Supplement \$790
- Triples deduct \$100 per person

7 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024

MAY 5 - 11 MAY 12 - 18

- Whale-watching in Provincetown
- Hyannis
- Kennedy Memorial
- Eastham Windmill
- Boston's Quincy Market and the Common
- And much more!

Day 1: Departure from pre-determined pick-up points in the Toronto / Burlington area. We travel through the lovely scenery of New York State and arrive at our stopover point, Albany, the state capital.

Day 2: After breakfast we proceed to Cape Cod. Enroute we'll stop at America's Home Town: Plymouth, where the Pilgrims first settled in 1620. We'll stop for photos at iconic Plymouth Rock, Forefather's Monument and the Mayflower II - a reproduction of the ship that transported the Pilgrims to the New World. This evening we will enjoy our first dinner on the Cape, and overnight in South Yarmouth.

Day 3: A full day of exploring scenic Cape Cod, beginning in the Cape's hub, Hyannis. Here we stop at the Kennedy Memorial, then drive along Main Street, through the village of Hyannisport - home of the famous St. Francis Xavier Church and the Kennedy family compound. We then travel along historic Route 6, stopping at the Eastham Windmill and a typical Cape Cod lighthouse. Driving along the Cape Cod National Seashore, we reach the historic North Shore and spend some time in Provincetown. This charming town was the scene of the first landing of the Pilgrims and is now an art colony with many photogenic sights and tempting boutiques. In Provincetown we board a boat for a whale-watching excursion led by a naturalist who will provide commentary on the various marine life we will see during our cruise. Or, you may choose to stay ashore and join a Dune Tour to explore the shoreline of the protected lands of Cape Cod National Seashore. This will be an opportunity to view the "Dune Shacks" which have inspired famous artists and writers.

Day 4: Today we visit Newport, Rhode Island, best known for its opulent mansions built by America's rich and famous of the 1890's, many of which are now museums. A local guide will meet us and take us through the city, including the famed Ocean Drive and the Bellevue Avenue Mansion area. Admission to one of the mansions is included.

Tonight we enjoy some local entertainment during dinner.

Day 5: This morning's highlight will be a cruise to Nantucket Island which, for 100 years, was the greatest whaling centre in the world. Today it is a picturesque island of beautifully-preserved homes, cobblestone streets and very special charm. Enjoy a tour of the island and some free time for browsing the galleries, shops and museums before returning to the Cape.

Tonight we enjoy a special lobster dinner (with alternative entrees available upon request).

Day 6: We depart the Cape for Boston, considered by many to be America's most historic city. We will enjoy a guided tour of the various historical and famous landmarks such as Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Boston Common, the Public Gardens and the original site of Cheers. There will be some time for lunch and shopping at Boston's famous Quincy Market. Then we travel through the charming villages and countryside of Massachusetts until we arrive back in Albany for our dinner and overnight.

Day 7: We continue our journey back to the Toronto / Burlington area (with a stop for duty-free shopping), taking with us fond memories of beautiful Cape Cod.

Branson (Missouri)

Departs from Toronto and Burlington

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Transportation by deluxe coach with Wi-Fi
- First Class accommodation
- 7 full breakfasts
- 7 dinners and 1 lunch
- All shows and attractions as described in the itinerary
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 (except round-trip airfare if required)

COST:

- per person, double occupancy \$3197
- Single Supplement \$790
- Triples deduct \$70 per person

Branson, known as one of the friendliest places on earth, is a small town nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains with more live shows than anywhere else in the world!

The hospitality is obvious from the moment you arrive, but what makes Branson a truly magical place is the entertainment - more live shows are located here than anywhere else in the world! For this reason, over the past 20 years Branson has attracted millions of visitors.

We have included in this tour a variety of the finest musical shows and attractions that Branson has to offer. We will attend 5 top shows. Each entertainer and production team brings their own unique touch to every performance - a veritable feast of entertainment!

8 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024 MAY 5 - 12 MAY 26 - JUNE 2

Added features of this tour include sightseeing tours of St. Louis and Branson, with a visit to the famous Titanic Museum and a shopping excursion. Branson boasts a variety of unique shopping adventures and you can even visit an authentic "old time" five and dime store.

So join us on this adventure to Branson where we know you'll have the time of your life!

Itinerary for Branson

Day 1: Departure / Columbus, Ohio. We depart from pick-up points in the Toronto / Burlington area, and cross into the US at Fort Erie with an opportunity to purchase Duty-Free. Tonight's overnight is in Columbus, Ohio, with dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2: St. Louis. We travel to St. Louis, Gateway of the West, known for its iconic Gateway Arch - America's largest man-made monument. Upon arrival we check-in to our centrally located hotel.

Day 3: St. Louis / Branson. We enjoy a tour of the grand old city of St. Louis, including the historic Soulard District, Forest Park - site of the 1904 World's Fair - and of course the Gateway Arch. We then continue to Branson, for a 4-night stay.

Tonight we enjoy our first evening of entertainment at the *Grand Jubilee Show*. Audiences fall in love with the power harmonies and dynamic performance of Branson's finest quartet. The high energy and versatility of the entire cast astound with songs from Country to Gospel and 50's to modern day.

Day 4: Branson. Today we will attend 2 shows at the Clay Cooper Theatre, home to Branson's most talented artists and incredible entertainers. Our daytime show will be one of Branson's current #1 hit shows. Then, following dinner at the Uptown Cafe, we will attend the exciting *Clay Cooper Country Music Show.* Clay and his fantastic cast of 15 veteran entertainers perform a high-energy show of singing, dancing, gun-slinging, rope-twirling, and hysterical comedy! **Day 5: Branson**. This morning we visit the interactive Titanic Museum, followed by our included lunch at Paula Deen's Family Kitchen. In the afternoon we'll enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Branson.

After dinner at McFarlain's Restaurant, we'll attend *Hamner's Unbelievable Variety Show*, where we'll be treated to a fantastic array of Branson entertainment. Led by master magicians, Dave and Denise Hamner, the show is packed full of great performing artists. The variety includes sensational singing, phenomenal dancing, stunning illusions, and a singing impressionist too spoton to be believed!

Day 6: Branson. This morning we enjoy a ride on the Scenic Railway through the Ozark Mountains. Then we're "All Aboard" the famous Showboat Branson Belle for a fun-filled dinner cruise and entertainment. We begin with a visit to White River Landing followed by a two-hour cruise on Table Rock Lake for fabulous dining and award-winning theatre.

Day 7: Indianapolis. We say farewell to Branson and travel through scenic Northern Missouri and Indiana. Our overnight and Farewell Dinner will be in Indianapolis.

Day 8: Home. After our buffet breakfast we return to Canada, arriving back in the Toronto area by early evening.

Join us on this visit to Britain's fabulous capital – the Theatre Capital of the World - to take in some top shows, visit those famous attractions and stroll the fabled streets.

And we'll make it all as easy as possible: As well as the meals and tours included in our itinerary, we have pre-booked excellent seats for three of the most popular shows in town, which tentatively include:

1. The Time Traveller's Wife. Whether it is tomorrow, today, or yesterday, it is time to see this new musical - an enduring love story based on Audrey Niffenegger's bestselling 2003 novel. Henry has a genetic disorder that propels him into spontaneous time travel, in order to join his soulmate, Clare, through the ages. This unique story illustrates the immense challenges in relationships and showcases how true love can stand the test of time!

2. Mrs. Doubtfire. This masterpiece of comedy and drama is about a man who has lost almost everything following a divorce. However, he does not give up and his love for his kids leads him to become a Scottish nanny. This

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotel
- Full English breakfast daily
- 4 dinners, a pub lunch, and an afternoon tea
- 3 pre-booked shows with transportation
- Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle, Tower of London, Royal Mews, Thames Cruise, Theatre tours and much more
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, or Winnipeg - \$6397
- Single Supplement \$1390
- Halifax or Calgary add \$290
- Edmonton and Vancouver add \$590

10 DAYS • AUGUST 14 - 23

heartwarming musical is both hysterically funny and deeply emotional.

3. Plus your choice between 3 theatre productions! For your 3rd theatre night you will be given the choice between 3 of the hottest West End / National Theatre shows.

We will stay at the centrally located *Park Plaza Waterloo* (or similar). This First-Class hotel is situated on the south side of the River Thames and boasts dramatic views of the river and the London skyline. It is within walking distance of some of the city's most impressive landmarks such as the House of Parliament, Big Ben and the London Eye, as well as train and tube stations. The hotel features stylishly modern furnishings with first class facilities. All Superior guest rooms are air-conditioned with flat screen TV, safe, coffee/tea facilities and complimentary WiFi. There is also access to a state-of-the-art fitness centre including an indoor pool, sauna and steam room. Day 1: Departure. We depart for London with Air Canada.

Day 2: Arrival London. We arrive in London in the morning and transfer to our hotel. There will be an orientation walking tour around the area, with some free time before this evening's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: London Tour / Theatre. London is bursting with centuries-old landmarks. Today's full-day tour will be by both coach and walking to take in the major highlights: Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, along with visits to Westminster Abbey and the Canadian War Memorial. This evening is our first night at the theatre.

Day 4: Tower of London / Greenwich / Afternoon Tea. We board a Rover riverboat at the London Eye and cruise along the Thames to the Tower of London – one of the world's most famous fortresses, where the ancient stones reverberate with dark secrets of the past. The Tower houses the magnificent Crown regalia. In the afternoon, we'll continue to cruise the Thames to the maritime village of Greenwich, where we'll see the world's oldest surviving tea clipper – the *Cutty Sark*, and the Old Royal Naval College. Our walking tour includes a visit to the stunning Painted Hall, known as the "Sistine Chapel of Britain", as well as a buffet-style Afternoon Tea. During your free time, you may wish to visit the 17th century Royal Observatory home to the Prime Meridian, the place from where the world bases its time. Note - your included Rover ticket is your travel pass allowing unlimited access to hop on and off the city's sightseeing riverboats for the next 2 days.

Day 5: Royal Mews / Buckingham Palace / Theatre. Our morning tour takes us first to the Royal Mews, which houses the horses and coaches of the Royal Transport (including the Gold State Coach which has been used at every coronation for the past 200 years). It is still one of the world's finest working stables. Then we walk over to Buckingham Palace – the official residence of the Queen, serving as her London home and offices. We will see many of the magnificent staterooms in this working palace, used extensively by the Queen and members of her family to receive and entertain guests on State and ceremonial occasions. There will be time at leisure in the palace to enjoy the magnificence of the interior, perhaps enjoy a spot of tea and visit the Royal Shop rich with memorabilia. This evening is our 2nd theatre night.

Day 6: At Leisure. A day at leisure. There are countless attractions, museums and galleries in London to visit. Your Tour Manager will be on hand with suggestions.

Day 7: Cotswolds. Our full-day excursion takes us through the quintessential English countryside to The Cotswolds home to rolling hills and quaint villages laden with unique honey coloured cottages and dry stone walls! We will stop for visits to two or three of the villages with time to enjoy gentle walking strolls before returning to London! A pub lunch is included.

Day 8: Windsor / Theatre. This morning we visit Windsor and the castle that has been "home" to English monarchs for almost 1,000 years. It is said to be the Queen's favourite residence. We also pass by Runnymede - site of the signing of the Magna Carta, and stop at the R.A.F. Memorial, overlooking scenic countryside. This evening is our final theatre night.

Day 9: Shakespeare's Globe Theatre / West End Backstage Tour / Covent Garden. Today we harken back to the days of the dramatic world of Elizabethan London with a visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in Bankside an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the tales and history of the 16th century theatre experience. Afterwards. it's on to Covent Garden - an area that through the years has evolved into one of the liveliest districts in London. Originally a vegetable garden for the monks of Westminster Abbey, today Covent Garden houses stylish shops, market stalls, cafes, bars, restaurants, pubs, and all kinds of buskers (street entertainers). We will enjoy a "Behind the Scenes" tour of the nearby Royal Theatre, and the affectionately called "Actors' Church" – depicting memorials dedicated to many famous theatrical personalities: Charlie Chaplin, Noel Coward, Gracie Fields, Vivien Leigh, and many more. It was also here that George Bernard Shaw set "Pygmalion" - the basis for the movie "My Fair Lady" right under the Portico! Later this evening we will enjoy our Farewell to London dinner.

Day 10: Home. It's "Cheerio' as we fly home with Air Canada.

Ancient Touring Routes of England

2-Centre Tour to Bristol and Oxford

Join us as we follow one of England's ancient touring routes, known as 'The Great West Way'. It was one of the first "Great Roads" commissioned by the Kings of England, and is considered one of the world's premier touring routes. We will wind our way through lush green landscapes to discover historic and culturally rich cities, as well as world-famous attractions. This tour is for the curious traveller who wants to explore the *real* England and enjoy an extraordinary variety of English experiences not found in any other parts of the country.

Our first 6 nights will be in Bristol, a lively yet laid-back city recently designated the UK's best place to live! Bristol has a rich centuries-old maritime heritage involving swashbuckling pirates and North American expeditions, and is noted for its famous harbour, historic landmarks and variety of English architecture from different periods.

Our last 6 nights will be in Oxfordshire, one of England's most glorious regions. Here we will find skylines pierced with spires and domes, dream-like palaces, world-class museums, spectacular scenery, picture-postcard villages, honey-coloured Cotswold stone architecture, and of course the world's oldest English-speaking university.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full English breakfast and 10 dinners (including 2 pub dinners)
- An afternoon tea
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal ... \$6497
- Single Supplement \$990
- Winnipeg or Edmonton- add \$290
- Calgary or Halifax add \$390
- Vancouver add \$590

14 DAYS • JULY 21 - AUGUST 3

Tour Highlights:

- The UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath
- The magical, historic town of Bradford-upon-Avon
- Blenheim Palace birthplace of Winston Churchill
- Bristol the SS Great Britain and "Being Brunel"
- Berkeley Castle
- The unspoiled village of Lacock
- A tour of Chiltern Hills
- The Royal Borough of Windsor
- Waddesdon Manor
- Hobbs of Henley Cruise on the Thames
- Oxford the City of Dreaming Spires

*Those participating in any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. Day 1: Depart. We depart for London.

Day 2: Bristol. We arrive and transfer to our centrally located hotel in Bristol for a 6-night stay. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Bristol. Our city tour of Bristol begins at the historic waterfront, where we'll visit the *SS Great Britain*. Here we'll see what life was like on the world's first great luxury liner (launched in 1843). Then we'll visit the newly-opened *Being Brunel*, where we learn about Victorian England's most ingenious engineer. Brunel changed the face of England with his construction of bridges, tunnels, dockyards, and railways. We finish the day with a wonderful walking tour of Bristol's historic centre.

Day 4: Cotswolds / Berkeley Castle. Today we meander through the gentle hillsides and sleepy, honey-coloured villages of the Cotswolds - a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Included will be a visit to the magnificent Berkeley Castle. Founded in 1153 by the first Lord Berkeley, it is the UK's oldest medieval castle occupied by the same family from its inception to this very day.

Day 5: Bristol. A day at leisure in this city bursting with activity, stunning architecture, award-winning attractions, great restaurants, stunning cityscapes, and elaborate street art.

Day 6: Bath / Bradford-on-Avon. We begin in the UNESCO City of Bath, where our guide will show us the stunning honeycoloured Georgian architecture, the iconic Royal Crescent, the majestic Circus, and Pulteney Bridge. Later we visit Bradfordon-Avon. Surrounded by glorious countryside, the ancient bridge in the centre of the town still retains its original 13thcentury arches. There will be free time to explore the historic streets of the town centre. This evening we enjoy a pub dinner.

Day 7: Lacock Abbey / Tetbury. Lacock Abbey is considered the birthplace of photography, as it was here in the early 1830s that William Fox-Talbot took his first "photograph" of an oriel window. The window looks much the same now as it did 200 years ago. Lacock village has been preserved from the ravages of modern civilization, with no television aerials or other signs of the modern world. After our visit of the Abbey, we'll visit Tetbury, known for its many antique shops and its proximity to King Charles's residence at Highgrove. The town has a wonderful variety of individually owned specialty shops, where you may experience a level of service long since vanished from most high streets. Included today will be a traditional Cream Tea. **Day 8: Blenheim / Oxford.** Today we visit Blenheim Palace birthplace of Winston Churchill. This National Treasure houses some of Europe's finest antique collections. We'll tour the State Rooms, and discover over 300 years of history. There will be time to explore this World Heritage Site and the 2000 acres of landscaped parkland, featuring some of the finest views in England. Later we arrive at our hotel in the countryside of Oxford, for a 6-night stay.

Day 9: Henley / Chiltern Hills. Henley-on-Thames is one of England's most beautiful towns, and has an international reputation (earned over 175 years) for having the world's greatest rowing regatta. The town has appeared in many episodes of Midsomer Murders. We begin with a cruise along the regatta route, then tour the Chiltern Hills, dotted with quaint villages and small towns with their typical brick and flint architecture. This evening we enjoy dinner in a local pub.

Day 10: Oxford. On our guided walking tour of Oxford - 'The City of Dreaming Spires', we'll see the key university buildings (and hidden alleyways connecting them), visit Radcliffe Square and Bodleian Libraries, and see some of the oldest colleges. We'll learn about the city's past and some of the famous characters that studied here, and be enchanted by its fabulous architecture and gardens. There will be free time to explore this beautiful city on our own.

Day 11: Oxford at Leisure. Our hotel is set on 17 landscaped acres, just 10 minutes from the centre of Oxford. You may want to spend the day walking the grounds, enjoying the pool and spa facilities, or play a round of tennis! You may also want to go into Oxford, or take a walk through the market town of Thame.

Day 12: Aylesbury / Waddesdon Manor. Our first stop is Aylesbury, known for its vibrant market displaying unique wares in the heart of the historic town. Then we visit Waddesdon Manor, a French Renaissance manor house inspired by the chateaux in the Loire Valley. It was built by the Rothschild family in the 19th century, and boasts a great display of exceptional architecture, art collections, and gardens.

Day 13: Windsor. Windsor is steeped in the pageantry and history of the royal family. We'll enjoy both a walking tour and a visit to Windsor Castle - one of the King's official residences, and the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world. Tonight, we enjoy our Farewell Dinner and lift a glass to cheer this incredible tour!

Day 14: Home. We fly home from London.

Stately Homes and Gardens of Southern England

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full English breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 10 dinners (including 4 dinners at country inns and pubs)
- A "proper" cream tea
- An evening of local entertainment
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal ... \$7797
- Single Supplement \$1390
- Halifax, Winnipeg, or Calgary add \$190
- Edmonton add \$390.
- Vancouver add \$590

2-Centre Tour to Kent and London

Along with the football match, the pub and a "nice cuppa", few British institutions are as important as the garden, and now more than ever gardening has become one of Britain's beloved pastimes. On this tour we will visit various styles of gardens, including those created by some of Britain's most famous landscape architects, including Vita Sackville-West, Christopher Lloyd and Capability Brown. We will also discover some of Britain's grandiose estates and learn of their turbulent and romantic pasts.

We begin with a 7-night stay in the seaside town of Folkestone, in the southern county of Kent which is known as the "Garden of England". One of Britain's oldest counties, Kent is not only known for its enchanting gardens, but it is also home to more castles and historic houses than any other region of England. It has been the playground to royals and aristocrats for centuries.

We spend the next 6 nights in London – "Everybody's Favourite City". Our centrally-located hotel is the perfect base for both touring and exploring on our own.

*Those participating in any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

15 DAYS • MAY 5 - 19

Tour Highlights:

- Sissinghurst Castle, site of Vita Sackville-West and Sir Harold Nicholson's world famous garden
- Canterbury historic English cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Leeds Castle, "the Loveliest Castle in the world"
- Penshurst Place and Gardens
- Chatham's Historic Dockyard
- Hever Castle & Gardens childhood home of Anne Boleyn
- Hampton Court Palace the country retreat of King Henry VIII, and Capability Brown Gardens
- Award-winning tour of Wimbledon
- Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew
- Savill Gardens with Thames River cruise
- Great Dixter House once home to gardener Christopher Lloyd

BRITISH ISLES | Itinerary for Stately Homes and Gardens of England

Day 1: Departure. We depart for London.

Day 2: Kent. We arrive and transfer to our 4-star hotel located in the seaside town of Folkestone for a 7-night stay.

Day 3: Canterbury. We visit the jewel of Kent – Canterbury, where we embark on a historic riverboat or "punt" – a unique vantage point to see Canterbury's stunning architecture. On our city tour we will visit England's oldest cathedral (the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury) and see the beautiful cloisters, side alleys and chapels which have evolved over the ages.

Day 4: Leeds / Sissinghurst. We begin with a visit to "The World's Loveliest Castle". Set in 500 acres of beautiful parkland, Leeds Castle was the private property of 6 medieval English monarchs and is now one of Britain's most-visited historic buildings. Later we visit Sissinghurst Castle, created by Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West in the 1930's and one of the world's most celebrated 20th century gardens.

Day 5: Isle of Thanet / Coastal Towns. The Isle of Thanet, now a part of the mainland, was where the Romans landed when they invaded Britain. Today it is home to a string of lovely Victorian seaside towns. We enjoy a walking tour of picturesque St. Peter's, where the past is brought to life by costumed characters! Then we stop in Margate - an old English seaside town that now has a modern flavour. We will stop at the Spitfire Museum, home to famous WW II fighter planes. Dinner will be at a lovely 15th century coaching inn.

Day 6: At Leisure. Folkstone's Creative Quarter features a host of independent shops and galleries lining the cobbled streets. You may also enjoy lovely coastal walks, and our hotel is near the train station if you want to venture further afield.

Day 7: Great Dixter / Battle. Great Dixter was the home of the famous gardener Christopher Lloyd, and since this historic house and garden was the focus of his work for over 40 years, it has become a centre of education and a place of pilgrimage for horticulturists from all over the world. After our visit, we proceed to Battle - one of England's most important historic sites. It was here that the army of William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings, seized the kingdom and changed British history forever. The town has beautiful old buildings, tempting shops and tea rooms. Dinner will be at a charming country pub.

Day 8: Hever Castle / Penshurst Place. Today we visit two historic estates brought together by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. We start with Penshurst Place, once the hunting lodge of Henry VIII. It is now considered "the grandest and most perfectly-preserved example of a fortified manor house in all England". The gardener will show us around one of the finest examples of Elizabethan gardens. Then we visit Hever Castle, childhood home of Anne Boleyn. This castle was the unlikely backdrop to a series of tumultuous events that changed the course of Britain's history, monarchy and religion. Included today is a delicious "proper" cream tea.

Day 9: Chatham Dockyards / London. Enroute to London, we visit Chatham's Historic Dockyard. For 400 years workers at the Royal Dockyard at Chatham constructed ships for the Royal Navy, including the nation's most loved – *HMS Victory*. We enjoy a tour and lunch, then proceed to London for a 6-night stay.

Day 10: London. On our city tour we will see iconic sites such as Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London and much more. Just a short walk from our hotel we visit the Royal Albert Hall - one of London's most famed buildings. Experience the excitement inside one of the world's most famous venues as it prepares for the next performance. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day 11: Savill Gardens. In the heart of Windsor lies Savill Gardens, home to plants collected from around the world. It is one of England's finest woodland gardens. Today we also enjoy a narrated cruise along the River Thames which will provide some of the best views of Windsor Castle in the distance.

Day 12: Royal Botanical Gardens (Kew). A leisurely morning before we spend the afternoon at the famous UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kew Gardens - beautiful botanical gardens as well as the most biodiverse place on Earth, with over 50,000 living plants. From Victorian glasshouses to an Alpine rock garden, there is something to see in every corner. We will dine in a modern pub overlooking the gardens.

Day 13: London. A day at leisure for you to explore on your own.

Day 14. Hampton Court Palace / Wimbledon. This morning we visit the magnificent Hampton Court Palace. From humble beginnings in the 11th century it has become one of the world's finest palaces. We'll explore the Tudor kitchen, see the King and Queen's apartments and admire the sumptuous tapestries in England's greatest Great Hall. Outside, try not to get lost in the world's most famous maze and the Privy Garden, restored to its 1702 glory. Next is Wimbledon, of tennis fame, where we can learn about the history of "The Fortnight" in the museum, get up close to the Championship Trophies, and touch the tennis fashions from the Victorian era with clothing and equipment donated by the sport's top stars. Our Farewell Dinner tonight is in a 19th-century cottage on the edge of Wimbledon Common, now an elegant pub — how perfect!

Day 15: Home. Air Canada takes us home.

Devon and Cornwall

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily (except for 2 dinners). 3 of the dinners will be at a special selection of pubs
- 1 pub lunch. 1 traditional afternoon tea.
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$7197
- Single Supplement \$1290
- Ottawa add \$190
- Winnipeg or Calgary add \$290
- Halifax or Edmonton add \$390
- Vancouver add \$590

England's West Country has always been one of Britain's most popular vacation destinations – with the British as well as international visitors.

The area is loved for its colourful historic towns and villages, vistas of constantly changing landscapes, magnificent seascapes and genuine West Country hospitality.

In Devon ("The English Riviera"), you'll find that there is more to this spectacular and diverse county than beautiful beaches and stunning scenery. There are National Parks, historic monuments and architecture, rustic villages and strange rock outcrops known as "tors".

Cornwall was one of the last great bastions of Celtic culture. Its south coast has wild and beautiful landscapes, where a green and gold tapestry of wooded hills drop down to secluded coves and inlets that hide enchanting fishing villages and exotic gardens.

A special feature of this tour will be our 3 dinners at hand-picked pubs. For centuries, the pub has been at the very heart of every English community. These evenings will ensure memorable experiences of the warmth of this timeless tradition.

Tour Highlights:

• Wells Cathedral - "the most poetic English Cathedral"

15 DAYS • MAY 23 - JUNE 6

- Bath UNESCO World Heritage site
- Cheddar Gorge one of England's most iconic and spectacular landscapes
- Clovelly the timeless village
- Port Isaac of Doc Martin fame!
- The Eden Project
- Plymouth the historic maritime city
- Dartmoor National Park
- St. Michael's Mount and St. Ives
- Exeter one of England's oldest cities
- * Those joining our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for London.

Day 2: Bath. We arrive and transfer to our first class hotel, centrally located in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath, for a 3-night stay. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Bath. We enjoy a morning walking tour of Bath. Famous for its Roman Spa, gothic Abbey and elegant Georgian architecture as featured on Bridgerton and in Jane Austen, it is considered one of Britain's most beautiful cities. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 4: Lacock / Wells. We first visit Lacock village, a favourite location for film producers thanks to its picturesque and historic streets and cottages. Then we proceed to Wells, also remarkably unspoiled with many historic buildings including the famous 13th century Cathedral, the moated Bishop's Palace and Vicars' Close. We will visit the Cathedral and have time to explore on our own. Tonight's dinner is at a quirky local inn.

Day 5: Cheddar / Devon. Today we explore one of Britain's most spectacular natural landmarks - Cheddar Gorge and Caves, which features awe-inspiring cliffs and extraordinary subterranean stalactite show caves. After our visit we proceed to our luxury hotel in North Devon for a 2-night stay.

Day 6: Clovelly. World-famous Clovelly is one of Devon's gems, offering breathtaking views across Bideford Bay. The historic houses wind their way down the wooded hillside to the traditional 14th century fishing harbour. No vehicles are allowed down the cobbled streets and goods are transported by sledge, often pulled by donkeys.

Day 7: Port Isaac / South Cornwall. Today we explore Cornwall, beginning in Port Isaac, a fishing village that is so charming it was chosen as the "home" of TV's famous Doc Martin. Our included lunch will be at one of the pubs used in the filming of the series. We arrive at our Cornwall hotel for a 4-night stay.

Day 8: St. Ives / St. Michael's Mount / South Cornwall. Our excursion to the southwestern tip of the British mainland begins in St. Ives, the famous harbour that has attracted artists and visitors for decades. We also explore the fascinating island world of St. Michael's Mount - site of legend, myth and over a thousand years of history. Tonight we dine in a traditional pub before returning to our hotel.

Day 9: South Cornwall. At leisure. You may want to relax and take advantage of the hotel's superb facilities, indoor heated pool, and sauna. Or stroll on the beach or in the town centre with its tempting array of shops, cafes and galleries.

Day 10: Eden Project / Charlestown. We visit the Eden Project, the world's largest greenhouses. Tropical and desert environments have been recreated inside the giant biomes, so a single visit can carry you from steaming rainforests to dry deserts. Our afternoon is spent in Charlestown, an unspoiled, original harbour, home to a famous collection of old ships featured in film projects all over the world. Included is a scrumptious traditional afternoon tea.

Day 11: Plymouth / Exeter. Plymouth, unrivalled in maritime history, has been a naval base for hundreds of years. The cliffs along the harbour are armed with forts and batteries from the 17th century to WW2. We will stand at the top of the limestone cliffs to watch the comings and goings on the Sound, and stroll around the cobblestone streets of the Barbican where the Mayflower set sail for America in 1620. Britain's oldest gin distillery is here, and we will enjoy a tour and tasting! Later we arrive at our hotel in central Exeter, Devon's premier county town, for a 3-night stay.

Day 12: Dartmoor National Park. We journey through the dramatic Dartmoor National Park, where the famous ponies roam the craggy landscape of forests, rivers and strange rock formations. Our tour ends with a delicious dinner at a cozy 140-year-old pub that has long been a local favourite.

Day 13: Exeter. Exeter is one of the most vibrant and historical cities in England. Our walking tour will bring to life the stories behind the magnificent Cathedral, imposing Roman Wall and beautiful Quayside. Afternoon at leisure. Exeter was voted one of Britain's best gastronomic towns by the Good Food Guide, with countless varieties of cuisine available, so there will be no shortage of choice for tonight's dinner on your own.

Day 14: Winchester. We proceed to Winchester, England's ancient capital, and site of the Great Hall, which for over 700 years housed the mysterious King Arthur's Round Table and 11th century Winchester Cathedral. There will be time to explore Winchester on our own. Tonight we bid goodbye to the West Country at our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Home. We transfer to London for our flight home.

Channel Islands

With a blend of cultures and an enviably mild climate, the Channel Islands have long been a vacation favourite with both British and French.

Although they lie just 14 miles off the French coast, the islands are British, and have been connected to the British Crown for over a thousand years. These self-governing islands maintain their own individual culture.

The food and wine may be French, but the customs and manners are definitely English. We will stay on Jersey, the largest of the islands. It is known for its glorious woodland walks, lovely rolling countryside, unspoiled coastline with imposing cliffs, historic castles and Victorian markets. The capital, St. Helier, is built around a harbour, and the town itself is a maze of narrow streets, many of which are closed to traffic. As a bonus, St. Helier is situated on one of Jersey's best beaches.

We will stay at the First Class *Merton Hotel*. Located just a 10-minute walk from St. Helier, the hotel is known for its high level of hospitality. Facilities include 6 restaurants, a heated outdoor pool, an Aquadome, fitness room, and evening entertainment. The modern guestrooms have satellite TV, tea and coffee makers, and free WiFi.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with British Airways
- First Class hotel
- Full English breakfast daily, 10 dinners, a pub lunch, and an afternoon tea
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3 COST:
- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$6297
- Single Supplement \$990
- Ottawa add \$190 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Vancouver add \$790
- * Passengers from the gateways below - for \$99 p.p. double occupancy (\$189 single) you may choose to overnight in Toronto before or after the tour.
- Halifax or Winnipeg add \$690
- Calgary or Edmonton add \$890

14 DAYS • MAY 6 - 19

Tour Highlights:

- Walking tour of Saint Helier
- Jersey War Tunnels
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Eric Young Orchid Foundation
- La Mare Vineyard
- Excursion to the island of Sark
- Excursion to the island of Guernsey
- Excursion to St. Malo, France
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Channel Islands

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Jersey, via London.

Day 2: Jersey. We arrive on the island of Jersey and transfer to our hotel. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Walking Tour of St. Helier. We enjoy a guided walk through town, visiting Royal Square, wonderful Victorian Markets and Liberation Square. We end at the Jersey Museum and Art Gallery with a viewing of the *Story of Jersey* film. The afternoon is free to explore the town or stroll in the lovely park near our hotel.

Day 4: Liberation Day / At Leisure. The Channel Islands were the only UK territories to be occupied by the German Forces in WW2, and May 9th is Liberation Day, marking the end of the war for Jersey and its inhabitants. This is considered Jersey's national day and is celebrated with bands, parades, services, and colourful re-enactments.

Day 5: Day trip to Guernsey. Today we ferry to Guernsey, the 2nd largest of the Channel Islands. Our island tour will follow the coastline, taking in the picturesque beaches and serene landscape. We will have time in St. Peter Port, where we can wander on the cobbled streets and narrow lanes lined with old shops and impressive houses.

Day 6: Jersey War Tunnels. We tour this underground complex, Jersey's most evocative museum of the five years of enemy occupation during World War 2. The video presentation and collection of memorabilia bring the island's wartime experience to life: a poignant and unforgettable experience. After our visit we will enjoy a traditional pub lunch.

Day 7: Day trip to Sark. Sark, the smallest of the Channel Islands, is known for its "olde worlde" ambience, tranquil atmosphere and endearing quirkiness. As there are no motor vehicles on the island except for tractors, we will explore by horse and carriage. There are quaint shops and cafes in the island's main village, and the memorable scenery includes an abundance of wildflowers and sea birds, picturesque inlets, stunning coastlines, dramatic cliffs, and secluded bays.

Day 8: Mont Orgueil / La Hougue Bie. We begin at Mont Orgueil, which has cast its imposing shadow over the beautiful fishing port of Gorey for over 800 years, and is one of the world's most well-preserved medieval fortresses. Then we visit La Hougue Bie Museum - one of Europe's finest prehistoric monuments. The site features a medieval church, under which lies a 6,000-year-old Neolithic passage grave. We will visit a command bunker built during the German Occupation of Jersey, and a memorial dedicated to the slave workers brought here by invading Nazi forces. This afternoon we visit Hamptonne Country Life Museum for a revealing insight into Jersey's rural history and cider making traditions. Later we will enjoy Afternoon Tea at Chateau La Chaire, a country house set on cliffs overlooking the sea.

Day 9: At Leisure. Due to Jersey's compact size (just 9 miles by 5), it's easy to fit plenty into a day at leisure. Delve into the island's colourful past, recharge and relax with the hotel's extensive facilities, or poke through the shops in quaint St. Helier.

Day 10: Eric Young Orchid Foundation / Samarès Manor. The Channel Islands are known for their beautiful orchids, and this morning we'll visit the world-famous Eric Young Orchid Foundation. Later we'll visit the wonderful home and extensive botanical gardens at Samarès Manor.

Day 11: Day trip to St Malo, France. We board a ferry to St. Malo for the 90-minute crossing. As we walk through the cobbled streets of St. Malo's spectacular old town we'll feel as though we've stepped back in time. The quaint cobbled and bustling streets are lined with cafes, buskers and shops selling various traditional Malouin and Breton fare and goods.

Day 12: La Mare Wine Estates and Oyster Tasting. Our winery tour will take in the production area for wine, and also for chocolate (with products such as traditional Jersey Black Butter, fudges and biscuits). We'll also enjoy a tasting, while overlooking the award-winning gardens. Later we'll visit Faulkner Fisheries - an old German bunker transformed into a working fisheries and restaurant, where we'll sample their award-winning oysters.

Day 13: Durrell Wildlife. We visit the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Founded by the celebrity naturalist Gerald Durrell (author of *My Family and Other Animals*), this wildlife zoo is dedicated to saving threatened wildlife species from extinction. We will have an orientation of the zoo, and free time to explore on our own. This evening we bid adieu to this unique corner of the world at our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Return. We fly home via London.

Please note ... Excursions that involve a ferry trip are subject to weather conditions. If a sailing is cancelled by the ferry company, a suitable alternative will be provided.

Bonnie Scotland Featuring Islands, Highlands and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

On this delightful tour we will feast on the history and beauty of Scotland's monuments, cathedrals, abbeys, castles and artistic treasures - all set in the stunning rugged landscape that this land is known for.

We begin in the capital - Edinburgh, where we will stroll Princes Street and attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a spectacle of live music and performance. Then we journey through the untamed Scottish Highlands and Islands. En route we visit tragic battlefields, picturesque harbour towns and fairytale castles, view the wild and rugged landscape of Caithness and the west coast, travel along the Great Glen, sail to the Orkney Islands to admire its picture book landscape and visit 2 of the largest Hebrides Islands - Skye and Mull. Along the way we learn about turbulent battles, the complex history of the Scottish Monarchy and the fascinating world of Scotland's famous poets and writers. We will also enjoy some wonderful cultural events unique to Scotland. By the end of this tour you will have discovered why the Scots are so proud of their heritage, leaving you with cherished memories of the country and its people!

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Transat (non-stop between Toronto and Glasgow)
- First Class hotels (or best available)
- Full Scottish breakfast & dinner daily (except for 2 dinners) and a pub lunch
- Cultural events: Highland Dancing, Traditional Scottish Music, Story Telling, Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$8297
- Single Supplement \$1790
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary add \$990

16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN 2024 AUGUST 8 - 23 AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 6

Tour Highlights:

- Royal Yacht Brittania
- The mysterious and infamous Loch Ness
- Islands of Orkney, Skye, Mull and Iona
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- St. Andrew's Scotland's world famous Home of Golf
- Culloden Battlefield
- Dunrobin Castle
- Inverewe Gardens
- Stirling Castle
- The Trossachs
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Bonnie Scotland

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Glasgow (non-stop from Toronto).

Day 2: Edinburgh. We arrive and transfer to our hotel in central Edinburgh for time to relax before our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Edinburgh. Our welcoming city guide takes us through the "Old" and "New" towns (combined, they now have UNESCO World Heritage status). We will visit the *Royal Yacht Britannia* – on which the Queen and the Royal Family sailed over 1,000,000 miles around the world over a 40-year period. This evening we attend the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Day 4: Inverness. Our first stop is St. Andrews, home to the famous golf course and University (where Prince William and Princess Catherine met). During our walking tour we see the ruins of St. Andrews cathedral, the castle and a glimpse into the campus grounds. You will have free time to enjoy the ancient town. This afternoon we travel into the hills of the highlands as we make our way to the city of Inverness.

Day 5: Wick. A day of breathtaking scenery as we make our way to the remote north. We stop at Culloden, where Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated in 1745. We also visit Dunrobin Castle - perched on a high terrace above walled gardens, with fairy tale spires and turrets rising above the North Sea like a picture from a story book. We overnight near Wick.

Day 6: Orkney Islands / Wick. We drive to the northernmost tip of Scotland and board a ferry for the short crossing to South Ronaldsay, one of the Orkney Islands. Our local guide will show us the Italian Chapel, the Ring of Brodgar ("Orkney's Stonehenge") and Kirkwall - the island capital with a Viking flavour and red sandstone cathedral. We ferry back to the mainland. Tonight is an evening of Scottish entertainment.

Day 7: Ullapool. Few places in the world match the mountains, moors and beaches of Scotland's northwest coast. We first visit Smoo Caves, Britain's largest limestone cave, then continue to the picturesque fishing village of Ullapool.

Day 8: Inverewe. We continue along the coast, taking in the spectacular vistas of the Summer Isles, and arrive at Inverewe Gardens. This world-famous historic garden is a lush, surprisingly-tropical oasis perched on a peninsula on Loch Ewe amid rugged landscape.

Day 9: Skye / Drumnadrochit. Today we cross over the Skye Bridge to explore the magical Isle of Skye, the largest of the Inner Hebrides islands and home to some of Scotland's most iconic landscapes. We travel to the Trotternish Peninsula to view the magnificent Kilt Rock - a 90 metre basalt column that looks like a pleated kilt. Then we enjoy some free time to explore the picture-postcard harbour town of Portree. We cross back to the mainland and the Highland village of Drumnadrochit for a 2-night stay.

Day 10: Loch Ness. Our exploration of Loch Ness begins at Fort Augustus, where we see the ladder locks of the Caledonian Canal. After a visit of the Clansman Centre we take in the spectacular views as we circumnavigate the Loch. A highlight will be our narrated Jacobite Cruise that will take us to the 1,000-year-old Urquhart Castle, considered the greatest castle in the Highlands. Before returning to the hotel, we enjoy a delicious meal at a local inn.

Day 11: Isle of Mull. We take the very scenic route along Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy and make a stop at the Commando Memorial Monument - dedicated to the men of the original British Commando Forces raised during World War II. Then we cross the Andnamurchan Peninsula where we board our ferry to the Isle of Mull, where we spend the next 2 nights.

Day 12: Iona / Isle of Mull. We enjoy the scenic drive past rugged mountains, dramatic sea lochs and small villages before boarding a ferry to the sacred island of Iona. Known as the "cradle of Christianity", this wee island attracts thousands of pilgrims each year, not only for its religious significance, but also because of the unspoiled nature and tranquil atmosphere.

Day 13: Stirling / Glasgow. We sail back to the mainland and make our way through Glen Coe, Scotland's most famous and scenic glen. We'll visit Stirling Castle, once a residence of the Stewart Kings and Queens and one of Scotland's most historically-important sites. After our visit we proceed to our centrally-located hotel in Glasgow for our final 3 nights.

Day 14: Glasgow. Glasgow is renowned for its culture, prizewinning Victorian architecture and the open friendliness of its people. Our city tour will show us the City Chambers, Central Station, University of Glasgow, and Glasgow Cathedral. We end at the River Clyde, most notable for shipbuilding, and visit the Clyde Distillery, where we'll taste their famous Lowland-style Single Malt Whisky and learn about Glasgow's history and its bonds with the whisky industry.

Day 15: Glasgow. A day at leisure. Glasgow is home to some of Scotland's best cultural attractions, with many museums, galleries and tempting shops (after London's West End, Glasgow is considered the 2nd largest retail centre in the UK). This evening, we enjoy our Farewell Dinner and raise a glass to say "slainte" (cheers) to this brilliant tour of Scotland.

Day 16: Home. We fly non-stop to Toronto.

Scottish Highlands Rail and Sail

This exhilarating tour will take in some of the Scottish Highlands' best rail and Loch cruise day trips.

More than just a matter of getting from point A to point B, a train journey in Scotland can be one of the best (and most comfortable) ways of admiring the stunning landscapes around the country - hundreds of miles of misty mountains, glittering lochs, picturesque villages and elegant mansions - all to be enjoyed with a cup of tea in hand and no chance of getting caught in the rain!

Sailing, whether on one of the many Lochs, or enroute from the mainland to one of the islands, is another true Scottish experience. These cruises provide great opportunities to relax and take in the magnificent and historical scenery, and even provide a chance of seeing the elusive Loch Ness monster!

Tour Highlights:

- The Jacobite Steam Train one of the world's greatest train journeys
- The West Highland Line
- The Isle of Skye

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Lingus
- First Class *Country House* hotels,
- Full English breakfast daily
- 12 dinners and 11 (mostly picnic) lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

May 9 - \$9797 June 8 - \$10597

July 14 - \$10997

- Single Supplement \$2190
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

<u>16 DAYS • 3 DATES IN 2024</u> MAY 9 - 24 JUNE 8 - 23 JULY 14 - 29

- Highland towns of Inverness and Drumnadrochit
- Cairngorms Mountain Railway highest in the UK
- Loch Sheil Cruise
- Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull
- Blair Athol Castle and Distillery
- Jacobite Cruise on Loch Ness
- Oban Bay Cruise
- Loch Lomond Cruise and Lennox Castle
- City Tours of Glasgow and Edinburgh
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Glasgow, via Dublin.

Day 2: Pitlochry. We transfer to our hotel in the centre of the beautiful Victorian town of Pitlochry. Brunch included enroute.

Day 3: Blair Atholl / Glencoe. The spectacular Blair Castle has acted as gatekeeper to the Scottish Highlands for over 700 years. We will discover the turbulent history of the castle, which was home to the Duke of Atholl and Britain's only private army - the Atholl Highlanders. Our next stop is Athol Distillery, situated at the gateway to the Highlands, where we learn about their distilling process and enjoy a dram of their famous single malt. Then we proceed to our Country House Hotel in the Glencoe area - a naturally beautiful region of mountains and waterfalls, and an ideal base for touring the Western Highlands of Scotland.

Day 4: Cairngorms Mountain Railway / Inverness / Loch Ness

Cruise. We take our coach to the base of Cairngorm Mountain, and board the Cairngorm Mountain Funicular Railway, the highest in the UK at over 1097m above sea level. Enjoy a cream tea as you take in the breathtaking panoramic views. We travel to where the River Ness meets the Moray Firth, and the largest city of the Highlands - Inverness, for some free time. Then we drive along the Great Glen to Drumnadrochit - one of the Highland's most beloved villages, to board our cruise on the infamous Loch Ness. Enjoy the commentary and breathtaking scenery, and try to spot the loch's most infamous resident!

Day 5: The Jacobite. A tour highlight - a ride on the steamhauled Jacobite train from Fort William to Mallaig. Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest train trips, this journey is known as the railway that took Harry Potter all the way to Hogwarts. The journey is incredibly scenic - taking in the spectacular viaduct at Glenfinnan and outstanding coastal scenery around Arisaig. There will be time to explore the bustling fishing port of Mallaig.

Day 6: At Leisure. There are plenty of local walking routes, so you may want to explore the countryside. Or why not use public transport and head into Fort William for some shopping? Your Tour Manager will suggest and assist.

Day 7: Crianlarich / Oban. We travel over the remote and wild Rannoch Moor, Loch Ba, and Loch Tulla viewpoints to Loch Awe, where we'll board the West Highland train from Crianlarich to the harbour town of Oban - 'Gateway to the Isles'. There will be free time to explore, and those who wish may climb to McCaig's Folly - a 19th century tower reminiscent of the Roman Colosseum.

Day 8: Boats, Lochs and Views. We take a cruise on Loch Shiel in time to see The Jacobite train crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct.

We'll be surrounded by magnificent Highland scenery and hopefully spot some of the local wildlife.

Day 9: Isle of Skye. We travel through spectacular Highland scenery to Kyle of Lochalsh, where we cross the bridge to the Isle of Skye - largest island of the Inner Hebrides. Skye is famous for its awesome scenic cliffs and waterfalls, and stories of fairy folklore and feuding clans. Our guided tour will take us around the island to viewpoints including Fairy Glen, the Old Man of Storr, and the quaint town of Portree where we'll enjoy lunch.

Day 10: Isle of Mull. Today we drive to Oban, where we board the ferry and sail across to the Isle of Mull. If the weather is clear, you will have fine views across Loch Linnie and maybe catch a glimpse of Ben Nevis in the distance. We will explore this wild and beautiful island, including Tobermory – the picture-postcard main town of Mull. The town features brightly-painted buildings along the main street to the pier, with the high woodland-fringed hills surrounding the bay as a backdrop. There will be free time before we sail back to the mainland.

Day 11: At Leisure. Explore the many nearby places to visit.

Day 12: Oban Bay Cruise. We travel through the striking Scottish countryside to the Glencoe Visitors Centre, where we will learn about the illustrious history of this place. We then proceed to Oban, where we will have a walking tour and enjoy a cruise which will offer panoramic views of Oban Bay. We'll sail into the Firth of Lorn and admire the great views of the islands of Mull, Kerrera, and Lismore.

Day 13: Loch Lomond / Glasgow. We enjoy a leisurely cruise on Loch Lomond, taking in the legendary beauty of the "bonnie banks" and views of Ben Lomond. Our cruise will venture out towards Inchmurrin Island - the largest of the islands and home to the ancient remains of Lennox Castle, the hideout of Robert the Bruce before he was to become King of Scotland! We continue on to Glasgow and enjoy a city tour before settling into our hotel for the next 3 nights.

Day 14: Edinburgh / Glasgow. We board a train from Glasgow to Edinburgh, for a guided tour of the city and historical Edinburgh Castle. There will be some free time to explore on our own before taking the train back to Glasgow.

Day 15: Glasgow. A day at leisure in Glasgow. Rich with striking architecture, top attractions and the best shopping in the UK outside of London. Tonight, at our Farewell Dinner we raise a glass and say "slainte" – Gaelic for "cheers" - to our memorable Scottish holiday.

Day 16: Return. We fly back to Canada, via Dublin.

All Around Ireland

A "just right" exploration of the island of Ireland, both the Republic and Northern Ireland, showcasing stunning beauty, legendary hospitality – and great fun.

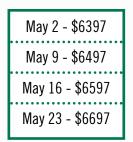
We begin in Dublin with its fine Georgian squares and lively pubs. Dublin has been home to many of Ireland's greatest authors and poets: Wilde, Shaw, Swift, O'Casey, Behan, Joyce, Yeats, Samuel Beckett and more. For such a small island the literary traditions and legacies are astounding. Venturing south we'll explore regal cities, Gothic cathedrals, medieval castles and postcard-perfect villages. We then move to the northern coastline and highlands of Donegal's National Park, with visits to Derry and the wondrous Giant's Causeway. Continuing through the idyllic glens of Antrim, we end our tour with a visit to Northern Ireland's capital, Belfast - a delightful city with magnificent Victorian architecture. Throughout the Emerald Isle we will enjoy the chance to mingle with the locals, and the spectacular scenery: heather-cloaked moors, soaring cliffs, deep blue lochs and rolling green hills – and, it's said, fifty shades of green!

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full Irish breakfast daily
- 10 dinners (including 2 special dinners with entertainment) and 1 lunch
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto



- Single Supplement \$1490
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg add \$190
- Montreal or Calgary add \$390
- Edmonton or Vancouver add \$790

15 DAYS • 4 DATES IN SPRING 2024
MAY 2 - 16
MAY 9 - 23
MAY 16 - 30
MAY 23 - JUNE 6

We will also experience the magic and mystery of this historic land which celebrates its past in poems, traditional dancing and beautiful music. You'll have your chance to kiss the Blarney Stone, sing at a traditional Ceilidh ("kay-lee") and listen to those myths and legends. We stop at inns and pubs to join the locals in a pint or two of Guinness or a tot or two of Irish whiskey. All of this, combined with the genuine warmth of Ireland's people will have you singing the praises of the Emerald Isle.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for All Around Ireland

Day 1: Depart. We depart with Air Canada for Dublin (a non-stop flight from Toronto).

Day 2: Dublin. We arrive and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Tonight, get to know your fellow travellers at our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Dublin. On our morning city tour we see the 18th century Georgian squares and houses, the 12th century St. Patrick's Cathedral, Leinster House (the Irish parliament), as well as Trinity College. Tonight enjoy a rousing evening of Irish food and entertainment at an Irish cabaret.

Day 4: Waterford. Our first stop is at the Rock of Cashel, set in a cluster of medieval buildings on top of a limestone hill, overlooking the Golden Vale. Then we proceed to Waterford and visit the factory where they once made the worldfamous crystal.

Day 5: Blarney. We travel to County Cork, stopping enroute for a tour of Cork City and a visit to Cobh Heritage Centre, a portside display depicting the exodus of the potato famine victims to America in the 19th century. We continue to Blarney, site of Blarney Castle and your chance to kiss the Blarney Stone, said to give you the "gift of the gab".

Day 6: Killarney. We head west for the quaint town of Killarney. This afternoon we take a jaunting car ride to the lakes, and visit Muckross House, a 19th century Irish estate. This evening we enjoy dinner and traditional music and dance in a quaint local pub.

Day 7: Ring of Kerry / Killarney. A day of splendid scenery as we tour the famous Ring of Kerry. We pass Daniel O'Connell's Cahirsiveen, the fishing village of Waterville, Molls Gap in the heart of the Black Mountains. and many more sites that make the Ring of Kerry one of Ireland's most beloved attractions.

Day 8: Galway. Following the coast, we drive through many villages, each prettier than the last, until we reach the Cliffs of Moher, rising 700 feet above the sea and displaying a magnificent, lush landscape. We continue through the beautiful countryside, stopping enroute at a farm where we will see a sheep dog demonstration, and enjoy a farm-fresh lunch. After lunch we board a ferry to cross over to Galway, a charming old town of narrow streets and stone houses.

Day 9: Westport. We pass through the beauty of Connemara National Park and the rugged mountain ranges of Twelve Pins. We stop at Kylemore Abbey, with its dramatic setting overlooking Kylemore Lough (now a convent for Benedictine nuns). We overnight in Westport, a picturesque Georgian town with a delightful tree-lined public walkway and tempting shopping area.

Day 10: Donegal County. We head to the town of Drumcliff, but first we stop for a cruise on Lough Gill and visit the Parke's Castle. We then enter Northern Ireland and visit the Belleek Pottery Factory, known for its exquisite creamcoloured china. Our next two nights are in Donegal County.

Day 11: Glenveagh National Park. Today we spend a full day enjoying the breathtaking views, scenic walks and fresh Irish air on our tour of Glenveagh National Park, in the Derryveah Mountains. Also included is a guided tour of Glenveagh Castle and its beautiful Victorian Gardens. In the afternoon we'll stop at The Crolly Distillery for a taste of their famous Irish Whiskey.

Day 12: Derry and Giant's Causeway / Belfast. On our guided tour of Derry we'll learn about this fascinating city's controversial history, depicted on many houses in the form of striking murals. We'll visit the old city walls for panoramic views of the city and countryside, and then drive to Antrim's north coast and the amazing Giant's Causeway. These vast outcroppings were formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago. We'll view this wonder from a cliff top and allow time for those who wish to climb them. We then drive through Antrim's lovely glens and coastal villages to Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland.

Day 13: Belfast. Belfast is a beautiful city of imposing Victorian architecture set within picturesque hills. On our guided tour we see the City Hall with its copper-domed roof, the Grand Opera House, and the Parliament Buildings set amid beautiful parklands. This afternoon we visit the Titanic Museum, which features special effects, original drawings, full-scale constructions, and interactive elements to explore the moving Titanic story. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 14: Royal Hillsborough Castle and Gardens. We journey through the outstanding natural beauty of the Ring of Gullion, first stopping for a visit at the Royal Hillsborough Castle. In the afternoon we'll travel down the coast to Northwood, just outside of Dublin, for our Farewell Dinner and overnight.

Day 15: Return. We fly back to Canada from Dublin.

The Celtic Connection Scotland and Ireland

On this tour of two Celtic Countries, we will experience constantly-changing landscapes, magnificent seascapes, historic castles and monuments - and that famous welcoming Celtic spirit!

Scotland is one of the wildest and most beautiful places in the world, combining the haunting sound of bagpipes, treasured family tartans and the strong traditions of Clans. Along our travels we uncover stories of the fallen monarchs and hard-fought battles as we marvel at the breathtaking scenery, magnificent castles and unique architecture.

Ireland - it is said - once visited, is never forgotten. As the locals say: *Céad míle fáilte - A hundred thousand welcomes to you.* The Irish landscape is legendary (there really are fifty shades of green!) and the history is so absorbing. Ireland's greatest asset is its people, known for their hospitality and friendliness (and keen sense of humour).

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily (except for 3 dinners)
- 1 lunch
- Scottish and Irish entertainment
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$8397
- Single Supplement \$1490
- Ottawa add \$90
- Winnipeg or Calgary add \$190
- Halifax or Edmonton add \$290
- Montreal or Vancouver add \$590

16 DAYS • JUNE 10 - 25

Tour Highlights:

- Edinburgh (the world's first UNESCO City of Literature), including the Royal Yacht Britannia
- Scone Palace
- Blair Athol Distillery
- Stirling Castle
- Loch Ness
- Belfast, including the RMS Titanic Experience
- Dublin
- Ring of Kerry
- Irish Dinner Banquet
- Hurling (Gaelic Football) demonstration
- Powerscourt Gardens

Itinerary for Scotland and Ireland

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Edinburgh, non-stop from Toronto.

Day 2: Edinburgh. We arrive in Scotland's capital and transfer to our hotel. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Edinburgh. On our city tour we see The Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh Castle and visit the Royal Yacht Britannia - noted as the UK's no. 1 attraction by Trip Advisor. The yacht was beloved by The Queen and Royal Family for over 40 years. Tonight we enjoy a fun evening of traditional Scottish song and dance, as well as a 4-course Taste of Scotland dinner.

Day 4: Newtonmore. We visit Scone Palace, one of Scotland's most important stately homes. For centuries it was the seat of parliament and the crowning place of Scottish Kings (including Macbeth and Robert the Bruce). The Palace houses a fine collection of antiques, paintings and rare artifacts, and the grounds are world renowned. Our afternoon visit is at Blair Athol Distillery - standing at the gateway to the Highlands, it is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. We'll see how singlemalt whisky is made and - naturally - we'll try a wee dram! We end in Newtonmore for a 2-night stay.

Day 5: Loch Ness / Newtonmore. Our first stop is the pretty village of Fort Augustus, which lies on the shore of Loch Ness straddling the Caledonian Canal - the 19th century engineering marvel that connects the east and west coasts of Scotland. At the Clansman Centre we'll enjoy a special Highlander Performance in the heart of this Highland community. We then board our Jacobite Cruise along Loch Ness to the foot of Urquhart Castle, with time to visit this magnificent 13th century ruin. Later we'll drive into the village of Drumnadrochit where we enjoy a memorable dinner at the local inn.

Day 6: Stirling / Glasgow. We travel through Trossachs National Park, famed for its stunning scenery, as we make our way to Stirling Castle - an essential part of any visit to central Scotland. We will learn about the castle's historical importance and marvel at its magnificence as it sits on its high rock, visible for miles in every direction. Then we proceed to Glasgow, and enjoy a panoramic tour of this exciting city, rich in culture and history.

Day 7: Glasgow. A day at leisure in Glasgow. You may want to visit the magnificent 12th century Cathedral, or the renowned Piping Centre where you can explore 300 years of Highland Bagpipe heritage, and have an opportunity to try the bagpipes yourself! And of course, the shopping in Glasgow is first class.

Day 8: Belfast. We ferry over to Belfast (Northern Ireland), and immerse ourselves in Irish culture with a Traditional Music Trail tour. With two professional musicians as your guides, we walk through cobbled alleyways, past famous landmarks and on to

private bars in some of the city's oldest buildings. At each stop there will be a performance of traditional songs and stories.

Day 9: Belfast. On our city tour we'll see St. George's Market, the Belfast Peace Walls, Crumlin Road Gaol, Parliament Buildings and much more. We end at the Titanic Belfast (named the World's Leading Tourist Attraction at the 2016 World Travel Awards) which tells the story of the doomed ship through interactive galleries, from her construction in Belfast, to her doomed maiden voyage. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Belfast's endless attractions, shopping, pubs and cafes.

Day 10: Dublin. We head south to Ireland's capital - Dublin, for a 2-night stay. Our city tour will take in the statue-lined streets, elegant Georgian Squares and the townhouses boasting the famous colourful doors. There will be free time in Dublin for shopping, sightseeing or to enjoy a pint in one of the many pubs.

Day 11: Wicklow / Dublin. We drive through the famous rugged and romantic scenery to Glendalough, known for its spectacular landscapes, rich history, archaeology and abundant wildlife. Then we visit Powerscourt Estate, listed #3 in National Geographic's finest gardens of the world. This evening we go out for a rousing evening of Irish food and entertainment!

Day 12: Kilkenny. We begin with a sheepdog demonstration - in which the instructor will explain each command in the training technique - a perfect opportunity to experience the true essence of Irish country living. Later we arrive in Kilkenny, a city rich in heritage and craft. We will have free time to explore.

Day 13: Cashel / Killarney. Our first stop is the Rock of Cashel, where medieval Irish kings were crowned. See the 12th century Cormac's Chapel with its Romanesque decorations. Then we proceed to Killarney, a vibrant town brimming with Irish heritage, shops and cafes, with time to explore on our own.

Day 14: Ring of Kerry / Killarney. We embark on Ireland's most popular scenic drive, the Ring of Kerry. The winding route reveals breathtaking views of the coast, beaches and cliffs. We also visit the Skellig Experience to learn about the nearby islands where early Christian Monks lived in austere conditions.

Day 15: Foynes / Kildare. We first visit the Flying Boat Museum to learn about early transatlantic passenger flights and to taste Irish Coffee which was invented there. Then we proceed to our 4-star country hotel in County Kildare. Enroute we will stop in Kildare Town - one of the oldest towns in Ireland dating back 1500 years. Vibrant modern-day Kildare offers a wide selection of shops and cafes. This evening is our Farewell Dinner and a chance to swap some of our best memories of the tour.

Day 16: Return. We fly home, non-stop from Dublin to Toronto.

Grand Tour of Italy Including Sicily

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Enriched breakfast and dinner daily (wine & mineral water with dinners)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$6797
- Single Supplement \$990 (Single accommodation is not available on the overnight ferry to Sicily. Those in single accommodation *may* have to share for that one night).
- Montreal add \$90
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$190
- Vancouver add \$290
- Calgary add \$490
- Edmonton add \$590

Italy - one of the most appealing countries in the world, is the ultimate destination to experience history, art, culture, food and wines, and so much more!

This well-planned tour, from the breathtaking alpine region of the north all the way south to the Mediterranean island of Sicily is perfect for the active traveller who wants to fit in as much Italy as possible into one vacation!

Tour Highlights:

- \bullet Milan city of fashion and design
- Scenic Lake Garda
- The cypress hills of Verona
- Venice the city of scenic bridges
- The Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Florence "Cradle of the Renaissance"
- Medieval Siena in Tuscany

• 16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024

APRIL 9 - 24 April 25 - May 10

- Pink stone city of Assisi
- Eternal Rome
- Sorrento, on the historic, scenic Sorrentine Peninsula
- Legendary Pompeii at the foot of Vesuvius
- Overnight ferry from Naples to Sicily
- The Valley of the Temples, Agrigento
- Cliffside resort town of Taormina
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for The Grand Tour of Italy

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Milan, via Montreal.

Day 2: Milan. We arrive in Milan and transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Milan / Lake Garda. We have a brief tour of Milan before departing for Lake Garda, where we will take in the magnificent scenery with views of the Alps and picturebook villages along the shore. We will enjoy a boat trip on the lake and visit medieval Sirmione - known as the "Jewel of the Lake" and one of the prettiest villages in Italy. A spa town since Roman times, Sirmione features narrow, cobbled lanes, a medieval castle and well-preserved Roman ruins.

Day 4: Verona / Venice. We proceed through the cypressclad hills to Verona, where we see the Roman Arena and Juliet's famous balcony. A short drive brings us to the university town of Padua, home of many great Italians including Dante and Galileo as well as numerous art treasures. We visit the famous Basilica of St. Anthony and then continue to the Venice area.

Day 5: Venice. We cross the Venetian lagoon by boat and spend a full day in the magical city of Venice. We see classic Venetian sites including St. Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs and the Doge's Palace.

Day 6: Pisa. We leave the Venice area and drive through the picturesque hills to Pisa and the famous Leaning Tower. Our guided tour of Pisa will also show us the Duomo and the Baptistry. After some free time in Pisa we'll proceed to our hotel in the Pisa / Lucca area.

Day 7: Florence / Siena. We depart for Florence, "Cradle of the Renaissance". Our walking tour will take in the multi-coloured marble cathedral, Signoria Square, Santa Croce Basilica and more. We then head south for our overnight near Siena.

Day 8: Siena / Assisi / Rome. After a walking tour of medieval Siena, site of the historic horse race, we continue on to the pink stone city of Assisi, which is under the protection of St. Francis. The city is still enclosed by medieval ramparts. Our tour includes St. Francis Basilica, well known for its fresco paintings. After our visit we continue on to Rome.

Day 9: Rome. Our touring in Rome begins in Vatican City - official residence of the Pope. We'll visit St. Peter's Basilica, one of the holiest Catholic sites, and the Vatican Museum,

site of the Sistine Chapel. The afternoon is free to explore Rome's many museums, shops and cafes.

Day 10: Rome / Sorrento. Our visit to Rome continues with the Roman Forum; the Arch of Constantine; Circus Maximus; the Spanish Steps and an opportunity to visit the Coliseum. We then proceed to Sorrento on the beautiful Sorrentine Peninsula, which is characterized by majestic cliffs, terraced vineyards, orange groves, and a striking rocky shoreline. We stay in Sorrento for 2 nights.

Day 11: Sorrento at leisure. A day at leisure to explore this beautiful coastal city. Your Tour Manager will be on hand with suggestions.

Day 12: Pompeii / Naples / Overnight Ferry. Today we visit fascinating Pompeii, the imperial city buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. We then proceed to Naples for a panoramic tour of the old city with its Gothic and Baroque churches. Later we board our ferry bound for Sicily. As we depart the Bay of Naples, be on deck for the breathtaking views of Naples and Mount Vesuvius.

Day 13: Palermo / Agrigento. We arrive in Palermo, a fascinating city with a mix of Latin, Byzantine and Islamic buildings. We may have an opportunity to visit one of the huge and colourful markets with its riveting display of fruits, vegetables and other goods. We then drive through the scenic hills to Agrigento with its magnificent works of Doric architecture dating from the 6th century BC. In the evening the site is beautifully illuminated.

Day 14: Agrigento / Taormina. This morning we visit the famed Valley of the Temples (formerly a Greek stronghold) and visit the temples of Juno, Concord and Hercules – beautifully-preserved Greek ruins. Then it's on to the Taormina area with stunning views of the sea and Mt. Etna, Europe's tallest volcano.

Day 15: Taormina. This charming town has long been a favourite international resort thanks to is pretty parks, gardens and ancient Greek theatre. From Piazza Garibaldi one can enjoy the best views of Mt. Etna and the beautiful lonian coastline. We enjoy a morning orientation tour, and an afternoon at leisure. Our Farewell Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant featuring Sicilian foods and wine, of course!

Day 16: Return. We fly back to Canada, via Rome.

Hilltop Towns of Italy Plus Rome and Venice

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Mainly First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (mineral water, wine & coffee with dinners) plus 1 lunch
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg- \$7597
- Single Supplement \$990
- Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, or Halifax add \$190
- Calgary or Edmonton add \$390

Fall is the perfect time of year to enjoy Italy's breathtakingly beautiful hilltop towns. Add Rome and Venice for an Italian experience that is simply magnifico!

We begin in the elegant spa town of Chianciano - famous for its healing waters that have cured the ailments of visitors for centuries. From here we'll visit Montepulciano, one of the region's loveliest villages, and then proceed to Rimini, an idyllic resort town on the Adriatic. This will be our base for visiting the world's oldest independent republic, San Marino, as well as Ravenna, known for its fine Byzantine mosaics. We then stay in Preganziol, and visit Venice, to explore the canal city's many treasures.

Tuscany is one of the world's classic destinations. We'll discover Pisa with its leaning tower, serene Florence: the "Cradle of the Renaissance", as well as Lucca and Siena. We'll visit medieval Cortona, built on the dramatic slopes once enclosed by vast Etruscan walls, and proceed to the great Renaissance town of Perugia - an historic artistic centre. From here we'll visit the nearby rose-coloured medieval town of Assisi. We end our tour in Rome, the "Eternal City" of endless art, romance and monuments that testify to its ancient and imperial past.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Tour Highlights:

- The Spa town of Chianciano
- Montepulciano with its baroque, medieval and Renaissance architecture

18 DAYS • APRIL 24 - MAY 11

- Cliffside town of Gubbio
- The independent republic of San Marino
- Adriatic coastal route to Ravenna
- St. Mark's Square and the Bridge of Sighs in Venice
- The university city of Padua
- Charming medieval Lucca
- Pisa's famous tower, Duomo (cathedral) and Baptistry
- The elegant city of Florence
- Siena and the elegant spa town of Montecatini
- Umbrian capital of Perugia, and Cortona filming location for *Under the Tuscan Sun*
- St. Francis Basilica in Assisi
- Rome, and its beloved highlights

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Rome.

Day 2: Rome / Chianciano. We land in Rome and proceed to the Tuscan spa town of Chianciano. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Montepulciano / Chianciano. With a blend of renaissance, medieval, and baroque architecture, Montepulciano is one of the loveliest hill towns and bestpreserved historic centres in the area. There are churches, palaces, and great views of the valley below. Lunch today is at a working farm where we will sample the "vino nobile", produced as far back as the 8th century.

Day 4: Gubbio / Rimini. We travel to the atmospheric town of Gubbio, one of Italy's hidden gems. Gubbio clings to the side of Monte Ingino, and its buildings just fit on the narrow terraces that step up the mountain side. We will visit the Ducal Palace to see the interesting architecture, then continue to the resort town of Rimini.

Day 5: San Marino / Rimini. We tour the tiny, independent republic of San Marino, the hilltop town that is the oldest and smallest republic in Europe. After our visit we return to Rimini for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 6: Ravenna / Venice (Preganziol). Following the Adriatic coast, we travel to Ravenna and tour this unique city. Dante (father of the Italian language) is buried here. We will visit the tomb of Galla Placidia with its fine Byzantine mosaics. Later we arrive at Preganziol, the mainland town from which we will visit Venice, for a 3-night stay.

Day 7: Day trip to Venice. We cross the Venetian Lagoon by private boat for a full day in this magical city including such divine sights as St. Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs, the Doge's Palace, and more. There will be time at leisure for the shoppers, the strollers, and the photographers, before returning to Preganziol.

Day 8: Padua / Preganziol. We visit the university city of Padua where Dante and Galileo attended school. The city centre has tiny walled streets, many piazzas, and arcaded walkways. We see the Palazzo della Ragione, Prato della Valle, and the incredibly elaborate Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 9: Lucca / Montecatini. We enter Tuscany and stop at Lucca, a charming town which could be a movie set for a medieval epic! Most of Lucca is traffic-free, so of course it's a pleasant place to stroll along the streets and take in magnificent churches, squares, and café culture. We continue to the charming and famed spa town of Montecatini for a 5-night stay.

Day 10: Pisa / Montecatini. We take an excursion to Pisa, and yes ... the famous Tower is still leaning! We will spend our time here at the Campo dei Miracoli, which includes the Tower, the Duomo (cathedral), and the Baptistry. This evening we dine at a working farm where we will tour the vineyards before enjoying dinner at the farm, featuring the local wines and farm-grown foods.

Day 11: Florence / Montecatini. Today we visit Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance". Our walking tour includes the Duomo, the 13th century Palazzo Vecchio, Church of the Holy Cross and, of course, the statue of Michelangelo's David.

Day 12: Siena / Montecatini. This morning we enjoy a tour of medieval Siena, where we will see the fan-shaped medieval Piazza del Campo - site of the legendary annual Palio horse race and the Palazzo Pubblico – and the gothic town hall. Those who wish may climb the 14th century Torre del Mangia - a 14th-century tower with sweeping views from its distinctive white crown.

Day 13: Montecatini. After all the sightseeing of the past few weeks, a free day to enjoy the local healing waters and explore this beautiful spa town will be most welcome.

Day 14: Cortona / Perugia. Our first stop today will be medieval Cortona, a magnet for modern visitors thanks to the hugely-popular book and movie *Under the Tuscan Sun.* Then we proceed to Perugia, the Umbrian capital. Our city tour there will take us along the bustling Corso Vannucci.

Day 15: Assisi / Perugia. Our excursion to Assisi will include a visit to the renowned Basilica of St. Francis. A short walk away is the 13th century church of Santa Chiara. There will be some free time for shopping (ceramics are a good buy!) before returning to Perugia for some time at leisure.

Day 16: Rome. We proceed to Rome, and our panoramic tour this afternoon will take in the absolute classics such as the Roman Forum, Circus Maximus, the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, and more before we check into our hotel.

Day 17: Rome. This morning we visit the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica and Vatican City. Afternoon at leisure for last-minute sightseeing and shopping. Our Farewell Dinner will be a great chance to share our memories!

Day 18: Return. We bid arrivederci to Italy as we fly home with Air Canada.

Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and buffet dinner daily, 5 lunches while touring. Wine, mineral water and coffee/tea with dinners.
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$6997
- Single Supplement \$1190
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$90
- Vancouver add \$190
- Edmonton or Calgary add \$390

Long considered one of the world's most beautiful coastlines, Amalfi is a series of bays, beaches, villages and towns, with a dramatic backdrop of rugged cliffs.

The road hugging the cliffs affords one of the most spectacular drives in Europe. Everywhere are orange, lemon, and olive groves, vineyards, lush greenery and flowering shrubs - all near the sparkling Tyrrhenian Sea. On this tour we will take in all the most beloved sights in the region and reward our taste buds with samples of the local specialties including extra-virgin olive oil, mozzarella cheese and Limoncello, the local liqueur. We will even have the opportunity to make our own "Neapolitan" pizza!

We will stay 12 nights in Sorrento. Perched high on the cliffs with stunning views over the Bay of Naples to the distant Mount Vesuvius, Sorrento is considered the most picturesque town on the Bay of Naples and features a host of restaurants, cafes, shops, and a local market. Other small towns and villages along the coast are easily accessible by local transport. 15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024

APRIL 1 - 15 APRIL 15 - 29

We will stay at one of the popular *Giglio* hotels, which feature photogenic views of the Bay of Naples, and operate regular shuttles to the city centre every day. Our hotel has a restaurant, bar, and lounge, and guest rooms are simply furnished and equipped with twin beds, telephone, TV, and private bathroom.

After our stay in Sorrento we will proceed to Rome for our final overnight, with a tour of the lively city of Naples enroute.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. **Day 1: Departure.** We depart for Rome - a non-stop flight from Toronto.

Day 2: Rome / Sorrento. Upon arrival in Rome we transfer to our hotel in Sorrento, stopping enroute for an included lunch.

Day 3: Sorrento / Galatea Farm. We begin our day with an orientation walking tour of the clifftop town of Sorrento, including the main square, Piazza Tasso always a hive of activity - and a visit of the Wood Inlay Museum. We then proceed to Galatea Farm in the Sorrento hills where we are welcomed by the staff who explain the workings of this small farm. We enjoy a tasting of local wines and participate in a cooking lesson and pizzamaking demonstration during which we make our own personal Neapolitan pizzas.

Day 4: Maiori and Vietri Sul Mare. Today we first visit the beach resort town of Maiori, well known for its lovely treelined promenade. During our orientation walking tour we'll see the elaborate Italian-style gardens, the interesting local church, and winding narrow streets and shops, with the hills and cliffs forming a wonderful backdrop. The town is not hilly and so it's easy to stroll through the narrow streets and lanes with their colourful shops and cafes. We then proceed to visit the artisan town of Vietri Sul Mare, where the residents produce beautiful Italian ceramics – surely a special souvenir of your tour to the Amalfi coast!

Day 5: Sorrento. At leisure to enjoy Sorrento's fine shopping and cafes, as well as the stunning views and surroundings. Optional excursions will be available.

Day 6: Day trip to Ravello and Amalfi. This morning we visit Ravello and the Villa Rufolo, the inspiration for some of musician Richard Wagner's famous works. We then continue to the beautiful town of Amalfi for a walking tour and some free time to explore.

Day 7: Sorrento. A day at leisure. Of course there is so much to do and see in the city and in this region. Your Tour Manager will be on hand to offer suggestions and optional tours.

Day 8: Day trip to Positano. Today we enjoy a boat trip to Positano, one of the coast's most picturesque towns, with steeply-stacked houses cascading down towards the sea in a riot of sun-bleached peach, pink and terracotta colours. Keep your camera ready for capturing the steep streets and narrow lanes lined with wisteria-draped cafes, restaurants and boutiques.

Day 9: Sorrento. At leisure to enjoy Sorrento in your own way. Sorrento is an excellent town for strolling, while enjoying the glorious views and surroundings.

Day 10: Trip to Pompeii. We enjoy a morning tour to fascinating Pompeii, the ruins of a once-thriving and sophisticated community destroyed by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. This vast archaeological site features excavated ruins of streets and houses that visitors can freely explore.

Day 11: Sorrento. At leisure.

Day 12: Capri / Sorrento. We catch the ferry from Sorrento to the lovely island of Capri and its famous Blue Grotto. Capri was once a summer resort for Roman Emperors and even today is a magnet for visitors with its famous Piazzetta and the Garden of Augustus overlooking the Faraglioni Rocks. There will be some free time for shopping before returning to Sorrento.

Day 13: Sorrento. A final day at leisure for that lastminute shopping. This evening we will attend a performance of local tradition, dance and songs at the Tasso Theatre.

Day 14: Naples / Rome. We depart for Rome. Enroute we will stop in the lively city of Naples for a panoramic tour, a visit of the Royal Palace and lunch at a local restaurant. Later we arrive in Rome for our Farewell Dinner and overnight.

Day 15: Home. We fly home to Canada.

Spring in Tuscany Stay-Put Holiday

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotel
- Full breakfast and dinner daily (mineral water and wine included with dinners)
- Farm lunch
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg, or Vancouver - \$5997
- Single Supplement \$790
- Edmonton or Calgary add \$490

The beloved region of Tuscany encompasses the best of Italy: stunning historic cities; artistic masterpieces; extraordinary views and landscapes; sea and mountains; and welcoming mild weather year-round. Not to mention the wonderful local food products, fine wines and artisan shops with age-old traditions!

With its carefully-tended hills covered with grape vines, cypress trees, olive groves, and stone farmhouses, Tuscany is a delightful area for an enriching yet relaxing stay-put holiday.

We will stay in Viareggio, a small resort town with a long, lovely Mediterranean coastline of wide sandy beaches, parks and pine forests. Parallel to the beach is a wide promenade and lively shopping area. The town has easy access to the great Renaissance cities of Florence, Siena, Pisa and Lucca, all of which are included in our tour. We will also visit Cinque Terre - the unforgettable cluster of villages clinging to the dramatic cliffs along the coast; and medieval Bolgheri, a beautiful historic hamlet with a famous avenue of cypress trees. On the day we explore Chianti we will sample many famous regional wines. 15 DAYS • 4 DATES IN SPRING 2024 APRIL 2 - 16 APRIL 16 - 30 MAY 2 - 16 MAY 17 - 31

In Viareggio our hotel is located on the Tuscan coast in a region called the "Riviera Versilia", which features the backdrop of the magnificent Apuan Mountains. We'll stay at the *Hotel President*, a four-star hotel that overlooks the seafront promenade. The beach is across the road and shopping is just a short walk away. Hotel facilities include a pleasant lounge, bar and restaurant. The guestrooms are comfortably furnished with two beds, telephone, satellite TV, mini-bar, safe and individual climate control.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. **Day 1: Departure.** We depart for Tuscany with a change of planes in Rome.

Day 2: Florence / Viareggio. We arrive in Florence and transfer by coach to Viareggio on the Riviera Versilia.

Day 3: Viareggio. Today we have a walking tour of the town, with its delightful seafront promenade, market and shopping area.

Day 4: Farm Visit. We visit a family-run farm that produces some of the finest olive oil found in Tuscany, as well as other fine produce specific to this region.

Day 5: Viareggio. At leisure to explore this lovely Italian town. The bus and train stations are close to the hotel, and public transport is very good, so it is easy to visit the many surrounding towns and villages.

Day 6: Florence. A full day in the city called the "Cradle of the Renaissance" and former stronghold of the Medici family. Today we visit the Academia Gallery to see the magnificent statue of David by Michelangelo. We then have a walking tour of the city and see the multi-coloured marble cathedral, the Baptistery, Signoria Square and Piazzale Michelangelo from where we have the best view of the city.

Day 7: Viareggio. At leisure to perhaps join an optional excursion to see more of the region. Your Tour Manager will assist and offer suggestions.

Day 8: Bolgheri / Castagneto Carducci / Livorno. Today we travel "off the beaten path" as we visit some of the unspoiled medieval villages in the region. In Bolgheri we drive the impressive avenue of cypress trees stretching 5 km long! The town has maintained its original historic buildings, old roads and small shops. The atmosphere is enhanced by the amazing views of the hills covered in olive trees and the sea in the distance. There will be time to shop for local products before we continue along the wine route to visit one of the traditional wine cellars (this region produces some of the best wines in Italy). Lunch will be at a restaurant in Castagneto Carducci, featuring a selection of typical dishes including homemade pasta with wild boar sauce. We return to Viareggio via the beautiful rocky coastline of Livorno.

Day 9: Cinque Terre / Ligure. We travel by train to the five villages known as Cinque Terre, which cling dramatically to the cliffs along the rocky coastline. Upon arrival at the village of Manarola we explore the village and then take the local train to Vernazza for some free time. Then there will be a boat ride to Monterosso - one of the prettiest of the five villages. At the end of our visit we return to Viareggio by train.

Day 10: Viareggio. At leisure, perhaps to visit the street market or other nearby towns.

Day 11: Siena and Chianti. This full-day tour begins in the medieval town of Siena - famous for its annual Palio horse race and also a lovely city in many other respects. We will see the wonderful cathedral and the Piazza del Campo - considered one of the most beautiful squares in the world. After a morning of history and art we unwind in Chianti with a tasting of the well-known wines.

Day 12: Viareggio. At leisure.

Day 13: Pisa / Lucca. This morning we visit Pisa, and yes, the tower is still leaning! The beauty in the area of Campo dei Miracoli will amaze you. It includes the tower, the duomo, the baptistry and the cemetery. A visit to the cathedral is included. There will also be time to stroll around after the tour. We then proceed through the countryside to Lucca, a charming town which looks like a movie set for a medieval epic film. Most of Lucca is traffic-free and it is pleasant to stroll through the narrow streets and see the magnificent churches, squares and statuary. We will have a little free time to visit the small shops and perhaps enjoy a coffee and people watch, always a great pastime in Italy!

Day 14: Viareggio. At leisure. This evening we enjoy a Tuscan evening with a typical meal of local specialties.

Day 15: Return. We say arrivederci to Tuscany and head back to Canada via Rome.

Italian Riviera and Tuscany 2-Centre Holiday

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France & KLM
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (mineral water, wine, and coffee with all dinners)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

April 17 - \$7597

May 1 - \$7797

- Single Supplement \$1190
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

Come and discover why the Italian Riviera and Tuscany are two of Italy's perennial favourites with visitors to Italy – including Canadians!

We begin this leisurely tour in Milan, where we will see both the modern and historic sites. From Milan we travel to the Riviera di Levante (known as "The Italian Riviera") - a rugged coastline with many small bays and inlets. This area is incredibly picturesque, with hills sloping dramatically down to the sea. We will stay 4 nights in this region touring the major highlights. Nearby are the Cinque Terre ("chin-quay terra") villages that date from the 12th century, each village different and all have the same spectacular coastal scenery.

The Tuscany region is home to some of the world's most famous Renaissance art and architecture, breathtaking scenery of medieval hilltop villages, olive groves, sloping vineyards and dramatic mountain ranges. We will base our stay for 8 nights in Montecatini, located in the heart <u>15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 17 - MAY 1 MAY 1 - 15

of Tuscany. This elegant and historic spa town is set amid green Tuscan hills and olive groves. It features Liberty style buildings (an Italian equivalent to Art Deco), welcoming parks and beautiful gardens. Its many spas provide a range of treatments that utilize the local therapeutic mineral waters, while the town offers many shops, restaurants and a weekly market to enjoy at your leisure. Local trains and buses operate a regular service to the surrounding towns and villages. Sightseeing in this region will include Florence, the famous Tuscan hilltop towns, elegant villas, farms and medieval towns like Lucca.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for the Italian Riviera and Tuscany

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Milan, via Amsterdam.

Day 2: Milan. We arrive in Milan and transfer to our hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure until our Welcome Dinner tonight.

Day 3: Milan / Liguria. On our morning tour of Milan we see the Milan Cathedral (the Duomo di Milano), the castle, the Galleria and the renowned La Scala opera house. After our tour we depart for the Ligurian coast and our 4-night stay in Liguria

Day 4: Day trip to Portofino and Camogli. We take a boat ride along one of Italy's most beautiful coasts, stopping in fabled Portofino - a stunning port town that has long been a favourite destination for the rich and famous. We then continue to the picturesque fishing village of Camogli, and its stunning seafront array of coloured hotels and homes.

Day 5: Day trip to Cinque Terre. We board the local train to Cinque Terre ("chin-quay terra"). This UNESCO World Heritage Site comprises 5 picturesque villages clinging dramatically to the cliffs along the rocky coastline of the Italian Riviera. Upon arrival at the village of Monterosso we will have time to explore before taking a scenic boat trip to Vernazza - one of the most beautiful villages in the region. We continue by train to Manarola and, after some free time there, return by train to our hotel.

Day 6: Liguria. A day at leisure to explore the Italian Riviera, popular for its beautiful beaches, cliffside views and charming towns. A wonderful day for shoppers, café lovers and photographers!

Day 7: Portovenere / Montecatini. We depart for Montecatini, our base for 8 nights as we tour the region. Enroute we will stop at the enchanting village of Portovenere, situated on a rocky coastline. The village was dear to romantic poet Lord Byron because of its tranquility. The 12th century village centre is still home to the original pastel houses overlooking the harbour and the Tinetto Islands. We will also see 13th century St. Peter's Church built on rocks. This evening there will be a talk on the history, art, local traditions and present-day rivalries in Tuscany.

Day 8: Day trip to Siena and Chianti. This morning we enjoy a tour of Siena. Distinguished by its medieval brick

buildings, the fan-shaped Piazza del Campo (where the famous annual horse race is held) is dominated by the Palazzo Pubblico - the gothic town hall. We will also visit a castle in the Chianti District followed by, of course, a wine tasting.

Day 9: Trip to a Local Farm. The morning is at leisure to explore this charming spa town with its many shops and cafes. This afternoon we visit a local farm to learn of the agricultural products Tuscany is well known for. The visit will be followed by dinner with a selection of local wine and produce.

Day 10: Trip to Lucca. After a free morning, we enjoy the lovely Tuscan scenery as we travel to medieval Lucca to visit the 17th century Villa Reale - an elegant villa with magnificent gardens surrounded by olive groves and vineyards. The villa has its original furnishings, boasts a picturesque lake, and still houses a green theatre in the garden. We then have some time to discover the historic centre of Lucca, followed by dinner at a local restaurant, before we return to Montecatini.

Day 11: Day trip to Florence. A full day touring in Florence - the "Cradle of the Renaissance". We visit the Academia Gallery to see the magnificent statue of David by Michelangelo. We then have a walking tour and see the multi-coloured marble cathedral, Signoria Square, the Baptistery and Piazzale Michelangelo from where we have the best view over the city.

Day 12: Montecatini. At leisure to explore the town and stroll the lovely promenade.

Day 13: Day trip to San Gimignano and Volterra. A full day to explore the unique hilltop towns set among the Tuscan vineyards and cypress trees. These small towns, with their medieval buildings and monuments, date back to the 1100s.

Day 14: Montecatini. At leisure. You may wish to take the cog train up the hill to the ancient upper town. This evening's Farewell Dinner at a local farm will feature some specially prepared regional dishes, a fitting arrivederci to our Italian holiday!

Day 15: Home. We fly home via Paris.

Pearls of the Adriatic

The Friuli Venezia Giulia region (in northeastern Italy on the Adriatic Sea) has everything there is to love about Italy in one small area, and is known by experienced travellers as "Italy's Secret Garden".

On this captivating stay-put tour we'll explore this region that shares borders with Slovenia and Austria (making for a truly unique blend of cultural influences). Whether you're drawn to the tranquil sands of Grado, the rugged charm of the karst cliffs of Trieste, or the picturesque hills of Collio, there's a world of experiences to explore!

We begin in Venice - an artistic labyrinth of enchanting canals and iconic gondolas. From here we'll visit Treviso and marvel at its frescoed houses, porticos, and Venetian villas. This area is equally famous for its vineyards, where the sparkling wine, Prosecco, originates.

Next, we'll explore the historical Roman town of Grado. Known as the 'Island of the Sun', this elegant seaside town has narrow streets, charming squares, and 3 kms of stunning beaches. During our 11-night stay here we'll thoroughly explore the area. Excursions include:

- The stunning cosmopolitan city of Trieste
- The ancient Roman city of Aquileia

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (mineral water, wine, and coffee with all dinners)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$6997
- Single Supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

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- The unique star-shaped city of Palmanova, with its ambitious Renaissance fortress
- The iconic Miramare Castle, set within a sprawling 22-hectare estate, and adorned with sculptures, rare plants, and serene ponds
- The prestigious mosaic school in Spilimbergo, featuring Roman, Byzantine, and modern mosaics
- San Daniele, with its 1000-year history of producing some of Italy's finest prosciutto
- Udine, where the Piazza Libertà is described as "the most beautiful Venetian square on the mainland"
- Crossing the borders into Croatia and Slovenia to explore 2 beautiful towns on the Istrian Peninsula
- The Collio Wineries and Castle of Spessa, featuring historic wine cellars in a 13th century castle
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

59 Senior Discovery Tours

Itinerary for Pearls of the Adriatic

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Venice, via Frankfurt.

Day 2: Venice. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel in the Venice Lagoon area. The rest of the day is free until this evening's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Venice. We'll transfer by boat to St. Mark's Square to commence our guided tour. Venice has captivated travellers for generations with its unique cityscape and rich heritage as the center of the Byzantine Empire. We will see iconic sites such as St. Mark's Basilica and the remarkable Doge's Palace. The afternoon is free, to perhaps take a gondola ride along the Grand Canal, or explore some of the lesser-known areas.

Day 4: Treviso and the Prosecco Hills / Grado. Known as "The Garden of Venice", the marvellous architecture and quiet canals of Treviso combine art, water, and history. Famous for its sparkling wine, Prosecco, as well as it's hills and vineyards, this region has recently been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a wine tasting at an historic winery, we'll explore the area, rich with Venetian villas and unique art. This afternoon we'll journey to the Roman town of Grado, known as the 'Island of the Sun' where we'll stay for the rest of our tour.

Day 5: Grado. This morning we'll enjoy a city tour and then have a free afternoon. Explore the central square of Campo dei Patriarchi, which is dominated by the Basilica di Santa Eufemia and the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie - Grado's oldest church and the home of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'.

Day 6: Trieste and Miramare Castle. Trieste, though not a big city, embodies the cosmopolitan and multicultural essence of a European capital, with its Mediterranean, Central European, and Balkan influences. Here we'll visit the 19th century Miramare Castle, which served as the residence for Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Habsburg. The surrounding 22-hectare park is stunning!

Day 7: Grado at Leisure. A free day to explore on our own, or to relax on the 3 kms of sun-drenched beach.

Day 8: Palmanova and Aquileia. Today we visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Our first stop is the ancient Roman city of Aquileia, which showcases its rich history with well-preserved ruins and archeological remains. We continue to Palmanova, known as the 'Starry City' for its unique star-shaped polygonal layout. The original design for this city is believed to be the work of none other than Leonardo da Vinci! Upon arrival, we'll be greeted by local flag-weavers dressed in medieval costumes.

Day 9: Grado. A free day to relax, stroll the long, vendorlined streets at one of the region's largest local markets, or sit in an outdoor cafe with a coffee and enjoy some first class people watching.

Day 10: Spilimbergo, San Daniele, and Udine. Today's full-day tour offers us some of Friuli Venezia Giulia's most iconic experiences. Our first stop is Spilimbergo, home to one of the world's foremost Mosaic Schools since 1922. We'll visit a mosaic school and observe students learning this intricate art form. Next, our journey takes us to nearby San Daniele del Friuli, the main centre of the Friulian Hills, and known on an international level for its production of prosciutto. We'll visit a local laboratory and have a light lunch with an assortment of ham. In the early afternoon, we continue to Udine, a town known for its Venetian charm, ancient buildings, and beautiful piazzas surrounded by porticos.

Day 11: Grado. Another day of relaxation to soak up the sun, or explore Grado and its charming narrow streets. This is an ideal town for strolling and exploring.

Day 12: The Venetian Towns of Istria - Croatia and Slovenia. Today we cross borders to nearby Slovenia and Croatia to explore two beautiful Venetian towns on the Istrian Peninsula dating back to Roman times.

Day 13: Grado. Our final day at leisure, perhaps to take a pleasurable, long walk along the shore.

Day 14: Collio Wineries and the Castle of Spessa. In the heart of the Collio wine region, immersed in the greenery of a magnificent Italian garden, stands the Spessa Castle. Dating back to the 13th century, it served as the residence for the lords of the Friulian nobility. During our visit, we will explore the historic cellars and have a tasting of some of the best Italian white wines This evening we will enjoy our Farewell Dinner and our farewell to Italy.

Day 15: Return. We transfer to Trieste airport for our flight back to Canada, via Frankfurt.

Northern Italy and the Italian Lakes

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (wine, mineral water, and coffee with all dinners). Including many dinners of regional specialties
- 3 authentically typical lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7197
- Single Supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

The beautiful surroundings of Northern Italy, and especially the Italian Lakes region, have inspired artists and writers for centuries.

We begin this tour in the cities of Bologna and Parma, two cities known for their culinary wonders. Bologna has an unspoiled historic centre, with charming narrow streets full of activity, lined with arched porticos and arcaded walkways, clustered around two beautiful squares, all surrounded by medieval walls. The city's bustling markets are legendary. Parma (the birthplace of Parmesan cheese and Parma ham) is renowned for its artistic legacy as well as its gastronomic offerings. In both cities we will stay at hotels within walking distance of the city centre.

We then move on to the awe-inspiring landscapes of Lake Garda - Italy's largest lake set below the imposing Dolomite Mountains. Surrounding the lake, there are charming towns and villages with their quaint architecture and stunning vistas, as well as a number of fascinating historical sites. Several excursions in the region are included, some of which will include wine tasting. We will stay in the town of Desenzano del Garda, a popular holiday destination due to its beautiful view of the Alps, beaches, ideal climate, Mediterranean flavour,

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and unhurried pace of life. At the heart of the city are a series of interconnected piazzas with open-air cafes and assorted shops, and there is an ancient fortress in the historical centre. On leisure days, it is easy to explore the surrounding region from here, as the local ferries go to every port on the lake, or you may prefer to just relax in a cafe, enjoy the spectacular views and watch the passing parade of locals and visitors.

Our hotel in Desenzano del Garda for our 7-night stay will be the charming First Class *Piccolo Vela*, which boasts an ideal combination of a relaxed atmosphere and attentive service. Perfectly situated, the hotel is less than a 10-minute walk to the town centre, as well as the harbour and ferries. Amenities of the hotel include an elegant lobby bar with grand piano, putting green, large tropical garden, and outdoor swimming pool. There is free WiFi throughout the hotel.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Northern Italy and the Italian Lakes

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Bologna, via Frankfurt.

Day 2: Bologna. Upon arrival in Bologna, we transfer to our hotel for a 2-night stay. Enroute to our hotel we will have a short orientation tour and discover the architectural beauty of this city. This evening we will enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Bologna. On our morning tour of Bologna we will see more of the city and learn about its prestigious academic history (the city is home to the oldest university in Europe). The afternoon is free to wander through one or more of the colourful and bustling markets this city is known for. Bologna is ideal for exploring on foot. Dinner will be in a local typical restaurant

Day 4: Modena / Parma. Today we discover one of the famous traditional food capitals of Italy - Modena. As well as touring the city, we'll visit a local farm to see the production of balsamic vinegar, and enjoy a light lunch with a selection of typical dishes. Then we'll proceed to Parma for a 4-night stay.

Day 5: Parma. Parma is a city bursting with art and culture. On our morning tour we'll see the octagonal towered Baptistery built from the pink marble of Verona, and the cobbled square Piazza del Duomo. After some free time to explore Parma's narrow streets and twisting lanes, we'll enjoy a lunch of local specialties, followed by a visit to the Museum of Parma Ham.

Day 6: Cremona. We enjoy an excursion to Cremona - the capital of violin-making for five centuries. We'll visit the Violin Museum (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and learn about this tradition of high quality craftsmanship since the days of the Renaissance. Included here are some of the finest works by Stradivarius. We enjoy lunch in a local trattoria on our way back to Parma.

Day 7: Parma at Leisure. A day at leisure to explore this fascinating city, visit local museums, or take the train to Milan for the day.

Day 8: Mantua / Lake Garda. We drive through the Pianura Padana Valley to beautiful Mantua, where our guided tour will include a visit to the Ducal Palace - the main residence of the Gonzaga family, then various lords, marquises, and finally Dukes of the city. Under the Austrian domination it was called Palazzo Reale (Royal Palace). The Palace hosts the famous Camera Picta by Mantegna - a masterpiece of the Renaissance. After our visit we transfer to Lake Garda for a 7-night stay.

Day 9: Sirmione. We take a short cruise to Sirmione, picturesquely located on a thin peninsula surrounded on 3 sides by water. The narrow winding lanes and pretty piazzas are mostly pedestrian so browsing the town is a pleasure. The Old Quarter is dominated by a well-preserved 13th century castle surrounded by a water-filled moat. Our walk around the promontory offers great views of the lake and mountains. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

Day 10: At Leisure. Our free days offer opportunities to use the ferry service and visit other lakeside towns. Or, you can even take the high-speed train to visit Venice!

Day 11: Verona and Valpolicella. We depart for Verona - a city of roman ruins, medieval buildings, culture, romance, and the setting of Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. On our guided walking tour, we will see the historic centre with Piazza dei Signori, Juliet's balcony, and the great Roman arena - now an open-air opera house. There will be free time to wander through the medieval streets and ancient piazzas, enjoy one of the cafés, or do some shopping. Then we'll proceed to the Valpolicella wine producing region where we enjoy a wine tasting and a fascinating talk about the region's wine production.

Day 12: At Leisure.

Day 13: Lake Iseo and Franciacorta Wine Region. Today we explore nearby Lake Iseo, where we will cruise the islands and enjoy some free time in one of the towns. From here we proceed to the Franciacorta wine region, a charming area of vineyards on picturesque hills. A visit of a local winery is included.

Day 14: At Leisure. A final day for last-minute shopping, exploring the lakeside towns, and taking in the magnificent mountainous views. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Return. It's arrivederci to Italy as we fly home to Canada, via Munich.

Liguria The Italian Riviera "Off-the-Beaten-Path"

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily and dinner (with wine) daily, and 2 lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, or Vancouver - \$6997
- Single Supplement \$990
- Ottawa add \$190 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Edmonton add \$190

Liguria is a wonderful strip of land with the sea on one side, and the mountains on the other. This region is known for its pastel-coloured houses, breathtaking views, lush unspoilt nature, many small towns to discover, and an incomparable culinary tradition.

We begin with a 2-night stay in Turin, a captivating city, known for its elegant baroque architecture and grand squares lined with charming cafes. Highlights here include visits to the Piazza Castello, the Egyptian Museum, and the Langhe wine region.

Next, we travel to Liguria for 9-nights. Known as the Italian Riviera, the shoreline here boasts stunning cliffside views, fertile landscapes, unspoiled beaches, and picturesque coastal villages known for their colorful architecture. During our stay, we'll immerse ourselves in cultural experiences, savouring regional cuisine and wines. We'll explore breathtaking towns, including Portofino and Monterosso, take a scenic train journey to Cinque Terre, and visit the iconic city of Pisa, before concluding our tour in Milan.

While in Liguria we'll stay in Chiavari - a lovely seaside town with a beachside promenade, a marina, and famously beautiful beaches.

You are certain to love this stunning region of Italy, 'Dove c'e amore, c'e vita' - 'Where there is love, there is life.'

14 DAYS • APRIL 2 - 15

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- The rich culture and architecture in Turin
- The Langhe capital of the Piedmont wine region
- Seafront promenade of Chiavari
- Picturesque seaside towns of Santa Margherita and Portofino
- The 5 clifftop villages of Cinque Terre
- Pisa (yes, the tower is still leaning!)
- Coastal town of Sestri Levante and local winery
- Cultural experience in the Val (valley) d'Aveto
- The amazing Certosa di Pavia Monastery
- "Off-the Beaten-Path" experiences
- World famous cuisine and wines
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for The Italian Riviera

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Milan.

Day 2: Turin. We arrive in Milan, and transfer to Turin for a 2-night stay. This evening we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Turin. As well as being a city rich in culture and history, one of Turin's claims to fame is as the home to the Holy Shroud: *Sacra Sindone* - a length of cloth that miraculously bears a faint image of an imprint of Jesus Christ! This morning we'll stroll under the city's intricate arcades to Piazza Castello, which is surrounded by majestic buildings, including the Royal Palace. We'll explore the beautiful piazzas of this former Italian capital, and visit the world's oldest Egyptian Museum, home to incredible works of art and archaeology. There will be free time in the afternoon. Dinner this evening is in a charming local restaurant, and includes the famous Agnolotti pasta al Plin, as well as regional meat dishes.

Day 4: The Langhe / Chiavari. Today we'll drive to Alba to explore the Langhe, often referred to as the "capital" because it's considered the heart of the Piedmont wine-producing region. Alba's historical centre features Roman-Gothic monuments and medieval towers that grace the skyline. In Canelli we'll enjoy lunch at a local regional winery, and then proceed to one of the Cathedral wineries for a tasting. Next, we'll drive to the Italian Riviera and the charming town of Chiavari, nestled in the centre of this stunning stretch of coastline, and check in to our hotel for a 9-night stay.

Day 5: Chiavari. We begin our day with a walking tour of Chiavari. We'll explore this beautiful city with its porticos, secret corners, and seafront promenade. In the afternoon we'll enjoy tea in the Caffè Defilla, one of Italy's renowned historic cafes.

Day 6: Santa Margherita / Portofino. We take a train and boat ride along one of Italy's most breathtaking coastlines. Our first stop is Santa Margherita, known for its vibrant yet relaxed charm, followed by Portofino, one of the most picturesque fishing villages along the Italian Riviera, with its pastel-houses and stunning harbour. Dinner tonight is in a local typical restaurant on the sea front promenade.

Day 7: Cinque Terre. Today we board the local train to Cinque Terre, a stretch of coastline with five charming

villages picturesquely nestled between the rugged cliffs and the sea. We'll take time to visit the lovely village of Manarola before taking the train to Vernazza. A scenic boat ride will take us to Monterosso, considered one of the most beautiful of the five villages. There are breathtaking vistas at every turn, don't forget your camera! At the end of our visit, we'll return to our hotel by train.

Day 8: Pisa. We'll board a train today and journey to Pisa, in the Tuscany region. Our walking tour takes us from the train station to the Square of Miracles - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and home to the Leaning Tower, the magnificent Cathedral and the Baptistry.

Day 9: Chiavari. A free day to stroll the Chiavari seafront promenade and discover all that Chiavari and this region has to offer.

Day 10: Sestri Levante. Today we'll enjoy a morning of leisure, followed by a wonderful visit to the coastal town of Sestri Levante and the local Bisson Winery - born from the wine artisan's love of this region. Following a tour of the winery, we'll have a tasting of these exceptional wines.

Day 11: Chiavari. A leisure day. Don't miss out on visiting the lively, colourful market of Chiavari.

Day 12: The Val (valley) d'Aveto. Today we take a leisurely stroll through the picturesque valley known as Val d'Aveto, enjoying the views of mountains, grazing pastures, and beech tree woods. We'll discover the local traditions and flavours of this charming region, visit a local cheese factory, and participate in a cooking experience in which we'll learn about the local products and recipes. A farmhouse lunch is included.

Day 13: Certosa di Pavia Monastery / Milan. We bid farewell to Chiavari, and travel north to Milan for our last night. Enroute, we'll visit the impressive Certosa di Pavia. Built between the late 14th and the 15th centuries, this monumental complex integrates Gothic and Renaissance styles. With incredible mosaics, it stands as one of Italy's most significant monasteries. Tonight, we have our farewell dinner in a local farmhouse.

Day 14: Return. We bid 'arrivederci' to Italy as we make our way to the airport for our flight home.

Puglia, Italy "The Heel of the Boot"

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily. Wine, coffee and mineral water with dinners
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7197
- Single Supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$190
- Vancouver add \$290
- Calgary add \$490
- Edmonton add \$590

Puglia ("pool-ya") is known for its sun-bleached landscapes, silver olive groves, picturesque seascapes, memorable hilltop villages and coastal towns.

This charming region, also known as Apulia, in the "heel" of Italy's boot, is skirted by an endless coastline dotted with castles and watchtowers, reflecting its history of conquering invaders: Normans, Spanish, Turks and Greeks. Thanks to its diverse influences over the centuries, Puglia has its own distinct identity combining ancient customs and local traditions. In the many small villages and large cities, architectural wonders from different periods and faiths are everywhere, many displaying the intricate works of a variety of artists.

As for cuisine, Puglia's *cucina povera* (peasant cooking) is legendary and more sophisticated than you may think! We will visit a winery, cheese producer, olive mill and bakery to learn about and taste the local products.

We'll stay 3 nights each in the towns of Lecce, Ostuni, and Puglia's capital Bari, and 2 nights each in the mountain village of Monte Sant'Angelo and coastal Barletta.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

17 DAYS • APRIL 7 - 23

Tour Highlights: :

- Beautiful Baroque Lecce ("Florence of the South")
- The stunning white-washed town of Ostuni
- Grotte di Castellana's beautiful limestone caves with spectacular stalagmites and stalactites
- The port town of Monopoli
- The elegant city of Martina Franca
- The energetic modern city of Bari
- Trani the "Pearl of Puglia"
- Matera (UNESCO) ancient cave town built into stone
- The ancient fishing town of Polignano a Mare sitting atop limestone cliffs
- The unique 13th century Castel Del Monte (UNESCO)
- The breath-taking Gargano Peninsula (the "spur" on the heel of Italy's "boot")
- The enchanting town of Alberobello (UNESCO), unique for its trulli houses (see picture above)
- City tour of Rome

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Brindisi in Puglia with a change of planes in Rome.

Day 2: Lecce. We arrive in Brindisi, and transfer to our hotel in Lecce for a 4-night stay. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Lecce. Today we enjoy a walking tour of historic Lecce. We will see Santa Croce, Palazzo Celestine, Church of the Rosary, Palazzo Adorno, the Cathedral Santa Maria Assunta and the Roman Amphitheatre.

Day 4: Galatina / Gallipoli / Lecce. We visit a farm in Galatina to sample some of the region's finest local wine and enjoy a light lunch. Then we proceed to Gallipoli - the "Pearl of the lonian Sea", and explore its delightful historic centre.

Day 5: Otranto / Santa Maria Lueca / Lecce. This wonderfully-scenic day begins at the port town of Otranto, known for its historic centre and beautiful sea views. We visit the Cathedral with its Chapel of 800 Martyrs, the crypt and one of the largest massies in the world. We finish at

and one of the largest mosaics in the world. We finish at Santa Maria de Leuca at the southern tip of Puglia for views of where the Ionian and Adriatic seas meet.

Day 6: Cisternino / Ostuni. We visit Cisternino to see an old olive mill, then proceed to the "White City" of Ostuni perched on a hill overlooking acres of olive groves that roll out toward the sea. We will see the old centre with its Gothic Roman Cathedral before checking in to our hotel for a 3-night stay.

Day 7: Castellana Caves / Alberobello / Ostuni. We first visit the Castellana Grotto (cave) with its unique stalactites and stalagmites. We then continue to the town of Alberobello to see the famous UNESCO Trulli Village - a symbol of Puglia. There will be a tour of one these unique homes followed by some free time to wander in the village.

Day 8: Martina Franca / Regional Lunch / Ostuni. Today we discover Martina Franca - a lovely baroque town with palaces and beautifully-decorated churches. Our visit will be followed by a special lunch featuring regional products and, of course, local hospitality.

Day 9: Monopoli / Polignano a Mare / Bari. This morning we visit the archeological area of Egnazia - once an important Roman town along the Appian Way, then proceed to medieval Monopoli, stretching along a jagged coastline and steeped in history and tradition. The town has fortifications of walls and castles and a magnificent baroque Cathedral. Next is the seaside city of Polignano a Mare, known for its picturesque balconies and also as the birthplace of singer

Domenico Modugno, who sang the universally-known song "Volare". We continue to Bari for a 3-night stay.

Day 10: Bari. Today we discover the city of Bari. Although modern in many aspects, it maintains its historic centre with the Basilica of Saint Nicholas, the Cathedral and the Norman-Swabian Castle. After a walking tour there will be a free afternoon to explore the waterfront, historic buildings, and many shops and cafes.

Day 11: Matera / Altamura / Bari. Today we visit the magnificent UNESCO city of Matera, starting with the upper part of the Civita dominated by the spectacular Romanesque Cathedral, and then visit the lower section and the Barisan Sasso. Later we'll stop in Altamura - a charming town with a well-known 13th century cathedral, to visit a traditional bakery before returning to Bari.

Day 12: Trani / Gargano Peninsula. We travel along the coast to the sophisticated seaside town of Trani, known as the "Pearl of Puglia". After exploring the town we'll proceed to the Gargano Peninsula for a 2-night stay.

Day 13: Gargano Peninsula. We explore the Gargano promontory that juts out into the Adriatic Sea (the "spur" on the Italian "boot"), passing picture-book seaside villages and breathtaking scenery of blue waters and dramatic cliffs. Later, weather permitting, we'll enjoy a boat cruise for even more spectacular views.

Day 14: Monte Sant'Angelo / Barletta. We first visit one of the oldest churches in Christianity in Monte Sant'Angelo, and then proceed to the coastal town of Barletta where we'll see the 11th century fortress, the Cathedral and Cellar of the Challenge. We stay 2 nights in Barletta.

Day 15: Castel Del Monte / Andria / Barletta. Today we visit the UNESCO site of Castel del Monte, a 13th-century citadel and castle of unique octagonal construction. We then learn about cheese production in the Andria region, famous for its soft mozzarella, ricotta and burrata cheeses. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Rome. We fly to Rome and embark on a tour of the *Eternal City,* which will take in the Roman Forum; the Arch of Constantine; the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and an opportunity to visit the Coliseum. We'll overnight near the Rome Airport.

Day 17: Home. It's arrivederci to Italy as we fly home.

La Dolce Vita Gastronomy and Wine of Italy

On this exciting tour we will discover the rich culinary traditions and famous wines of Italy.

Italian food varies significantly from region to region and derives most of its magic from the abundance, quality and freshness of the locally-sourced ingredients. The seas surrounding Italy abound with a wide variety of fish and seafood; the coastal plains and river valleys are filled with orchards, groves and fields of fruits and vegetables; the mountains and hillsides are covered in vines and forests; and large flocks and herds are pastured throughout the country. There is a healthy rivalry between the regions to out-do each other and make claim to the best dishes (which are often "My mother's")!

Italy also produces a fantastic array of wines, from delicate whites through robust reds to wonderful dry or sweet sparkling wines, and from simple table wines to some of the best in the world. We will learn about the incredible history and culture of winemaking - and of course sample many as we travel through the country.

We begin with 3 nights in the Umbria region, visiting the clifftop town of Orvieto and the Wine Museum in Torgiano, trying our hand at truffle hunting in Pietralunga, strolling in Etruscan Perugia and enjoying spectacular views in idyllic Assisi.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (wine, mineral water and coffee with all dinners). Including a farm dinner, an Executive Chef dinner, and many dinners of regional specialties
- 5 authentically typical lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7797
- Single Supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

14 DAYS • MAY 13 - 26

From here we head to the spa town of Montecatini Terme for 5 nights, our home base for visiting Cortona (set of "Under the Tuscan Sun"), an agricultural farm featuring cooking lessons; the beautiful hamlet of Bolgheri with its Avenue of Cypresses; Lucca where we enjoy a "walking brunch" sampling local cheeses and breads, an olive oil mill, an estate on the famous Tuscan Wine Route; Castagneto Carducci for homemade pasta with wild boar; and the lively San Lorenzo market in Florence. In Montecatini Terme we will have ample opportunity to visit the town's famed thermal spa.

We then head north to the Lake Garda region for 4 nights, stopping enroute in Bologna for the delicious tortellini pasta and a visit to the Ferrari Museum to get the heart pounding! We also visit romantic Verona, a renowned Valpolicella winery, Vicenza to marvel at the architecture of Andrea Palladio, and Bassano del Grappa where the popular Italian spirit has been made since 1779.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for La Dolce Vita

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Rome, via Munich.

Day 2: Rome / Perugia. We land in Rome and transfer to Perugia for a 3-night stay. Perugia is an ideal base to discover the local culinary traditions, famous art and medieval hamlets of the region. Tonight our Welcome Dinner will feature seasonal dishes, local products and traditional Umbrian recipes.

Day 3: Orvieto / Torgiano. We visit Orvieto, a typical Umbrian hilltop town with breathtaking views of the countryside. After a tour and some free time, we continue to the Wine Museum in Torgiano - a veritable trip through time, with artwork and historic items all pertaining to grapes and wine. After our visit we enjoy a tasting of Umbrian wines and delicacies.

Day 4: Truffle Hunting / Perugia. Since this region is known for its fine truffles, we will head into the forest to hunt for these delicacies, accompanied by locals who will show us the way. We will see a demonstration on how to prepare these precious tubers, followed by a special lunch - made with our findings - at a local farm. We then return to Perugia, capital of Umbria, for a guided tour of this important medieval city.

Day 5: Assisi / Cortona / Montecatini Terme. We visit Assisi, the idyllic hilltop town of the venerated patron Saint Francis. We then head for Tuscany and the charming commune of Cortona, the set of the best-selling novel "Under the Tuscan Sun". We enjoy lunch in a typical restaurant and a tour of this wonderful hamlet, then proceed to the spa town of Montecatini Terme for a 5-night stay at a centrally-located hotel.

Day 6: Agricultural Farm / Cooking Class. A morning at leisure to explore the town or visit the nearby thermal spa. Later we visit a local farm to walk amongst the orchards and pick fresh ingredients to prepare some local dishes. We will learn to make pasta, typical Tuscan soup and the famous Tiramisù dessert. Dinner at the farm will include the dishes we have prepared, with a prize awarded for the best result!

Day 7: Lucca. We visit Lucca, a city of culinary traditions and cultural heritage. We'll visit the Palazzo Mansi - home to one of Europe's biggest tapestry collections. On our walking tour we'll stop at some of the town's delicatessens and specialty shops to sample the best local products (cheese, wine and schiacciata bread) followed by lunch in a local restaurant.

Day 8: Bolgheri / Wine Route / Castagneto Carducci. We begin with a visit to the beautiful town of Bolgheri, known for its Viale dei Cipressi (Avenue of Cypresses). The village has kept its original historic buildings, roads and little shops, complimented by the astonishing views of the hills, sea and islands. We continue along the wine route where famous wines such as Sassicaia and Ornellaia are produced, and we visit a local estate. We will have lunch in Castagneto Carducci with a selection of typical dishes including homemade pasta and the famous wild boar sauce. There will be time to enjoy Castagneto with its historic centre dominated by a castle still inhabited today by the Della Gherardesca family. In the afternoon we visit an olive oil mill before returning to Montecatini Terme.

Day 9: Florence. Today we discover the Renaissance capital of Florence, also rich in gastronomic traditions. On our walking tour we see the multi-coloured marble cathedral, Signoria Square, the Baptistery and Piazzale Michelangelo for the best view over the city. We'll also visit San Lorenzo market for some great shopping, and our local guide will point out the many trattorias, sidewalk cafes, or wine shops where you can browse during your free afternoon, or perhaps visit one of the worldfamous museums.

Day 10: Bologna / Ferrari Museum / Lake Garda. We travel to Bologna for a walking tour of the narrow streets lined with arched porticos and arcaded walkways, surrounded by the remains of medieval walls. Home to Europe's oldest university, Bologna is famous for its red-tiled roofs and for its residents' love of fine food. Lunch is at a restaurant that specializes in the famous homemade tortellini pasta and a selection of products from the Emilia Romagna region. Later we visit the Ferrari Museum where we learn about Enzo Ferrari's remarkable life story and the history of the famous sports car. We continue to our hotel in the Lake Garda area for a 4-night stay.

Day 11: Verona / Valpolicella. We visit Verona - a city of Roman ruins, medieval buildings and the legend of Romeo and Juliet. Our walking tour will take us through Verona's historic heart, to Juliet's balcony and the great Roman Arena. After some free time, we'll visit a local winery in Valpolicella for a tasting.

Day 12: Vicenza / Bassano del Grappa. We visit the fascinating city of Vicenza, famous for the buildings of Andrea Palladio considered to be history's most influential architect. We will see Piazza dei Signori, the Duomo and the famous Teatro Olimpico the world's first indoor masonry theatre. We then continue to Bassano del Grappa, where the popular Italian spirit Grappa was invented. Here we visit Nardini Distillery which has been producing the spirit since 1779. We also see the historic city centre and stop on the Ponte Vecchio - a covered wooden bridge designed by Palladio featuring views of the city and mountains.

Day 13: Veneto / Farmhouse Farewell Dinner. A day at leisure. Our Farewell Dinner will be at a local farmhouse where we learn to prepare regional specialties. We will dine on our creations accompanied by a wine paring for each course.

Day 14: Home. We fly home from Verona, via Frankfurt.

The Poppy Trail Historic Battlefield Tour

England, France, and Belgium

This journey of remembrance and discovery will explore poignant sites and unforgettable moments from both WWI and WWII.

We begin in London and finish in Paris, and en route will visit the D-Day Landing beaches of Normandy, the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Flanders Fields, hearing remarkable tales of bravery and courage. In London we will ride in a beautifully restored vintage double decker bus and learn about life and survival in London during the Blitz. There will also be some time at leisure. After discovering Portsmouth Harbour, we cross the English Channel to Normandy, and follow in the footsteps of our bravest soldiers on the most famous battlefields, as well as experiencing the serene towns of Arras and Ypres. We conclude our journey in Paris, the City of Light, enjoying some of its most iconic sites before flying home to Canada.

Tour Highlights:

- Thames River Cruise
- London-at-War Coach Tour
- Portsmouth D-Day Museum and Historic Dockyard including the *HMS Victory* and the *Mary Rose*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels (except for one night in a moderate hotel in Portsmouth)
- Breakfast and dinner daily (except for 1 dinner while in London), and 1 lunch
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$9197
- Single Supplement \$1990
- Ottawa add \$190
- Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$390
- Vancouver- add \$690

16 DAYS • MAY 5 - 20

- Pegasus Bridge
- Normandy's Landing Beaches including Dieppe
- Juno Beach Centre
- Disembarkation Museum of Arromanches
- The Somme Battlefields
- Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park
- Wellington Tunnel in Arras
- Vimy Ridge Tour of the Tunnels and Trenches Memorial
- In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres
- Passchendaele
- Illumination Cruise on the Seine River
- Paris City Tour
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for The Poppy Trail

Day 1: Departure. We depart for London.

Day 2: Windsor / London. After arrival we will unwind with a relaxing cruise from Runnymede, and enjoy classic views of Windsor Castle. Lunch is included on the cruise. Then we proceed to our central London hotel. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: London. As bombs fell during WWII, thousands of Londoners volunteered to fight fires and save lives. Our "London at War" tour aboard a vintage double decker bus provides a unique insight into life in London during the two World Wars. Afterwards there will be some time at leisure to explore London on your own.

Day 4: Portsmouth (D-Day Museum). We travel to Portsmouth and visit the D-Day Museum, which tells the story of the D-Day Landings during WWII and features the magnificent Overlord Embroidery - a tribute to the heroism of those who took part in the operation. We will also explore Historic Portsmouth Harbour, home to the *HMS Victory* - the Royal Navy's most famous warship, and The *Mary Rose* - flagship of the English Tudor navy of King Henry VIII.

Day 5: Channel Crossing / Port-en-Bessin. We take the ferry to the port of Caen, Normandy, to visit the Pegasus Bridge where the 6th British Airborne landed, captured and liberated the first house in Europe, the Café Gondrée. After our visit to the museum here we will proceed to our hotel for our first dinner in France.

Day 6: Courseulles-Sur-Mer / Juno Beach / Port-en-Bessin. We begin at the Canadian Memorial Garden in the Abbaye d'Ardenne, and Verrières Ridge to view the area where the Canadian Black Watch suffered many casualties during Operation Spring. Then we visit the Juno Beach Centre, dedicated to the 3rd Division landings as well as Canada's full involvement during World War II. Afterward, we will visit Queen's Own Rifles House on the beach of Bernièressur-Mer and the Canadian Military Cemetery at Bény-sur-Mer.

Day 7: Arromanches / Pointe du Hoc / Omaha Beach / Port-en-

Bessin. We continue our focus on the Normandy Invasion with a visit to Pointe du Hoc, where the cratered landscape caused by the German battery can be seen. Then we see Omaha Beach and the American Military Cemetery to discover the harsh difficulties in landing on the beach. This will be followed by a visit of the German battery at Longues-sur-Mer, which is still relatively intact. Later we visit the Disembarkation Museum and Mulberry Harbour in Arromanches before returning to our hotel.

Day 8: Dieppe / Arras. We travel to the coastal town of Dieppe to visit the Dieppe Canadian Cemetery, before travelling to Green Beach at Pourville to view the Red and White landing beaches on the Dieppe seafront, as well as the Canadian Memorial Museum. Later, at the Blue Beach in Puys we view the gun emplacements on the clifftops which were responsible for the terrible Canadian casualties. Then we travel to Arras for a 3-night stay.

Day 9: Albert / Beaumont Hamel / Arras. Our focus switches to WWI as we explore the Somme, starting in Albert and the Musée

des Arbris. Then we visit the Somme Battlefields, the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval, and one of the few intact First World War monuments, the memorial park at Beaumont Hamel. The park (maintained by Canada) remains as it was during the Battle of the Somme, and is dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland and Labrador Regiment which lost so many men on that first day of battle.

Day 10: Vimy Ridge / Arras. We travel the short distance to Vimy Ridge. It was on Hill 145, in April 1917, that Canada truly became a nation in the eyes of the world. Canadian troops stormed the ridge after all other allied forces failed to do so. We will tour the tunnels, trenches and memorial, as well as the interpretation centre. This afternoon we tour the Wellington Tunnels, used by the Allies to support the Western Front close to the town. There will be free time to explore Arras, Place des Héros as well as the Belfroi.

Day 11: Lens / Ypres. We travel to Lens and the new Hill 70 Memorial commemorating one of Canada's major victories on the Western Front after the victory at Vimy. We then proceed to Ypres, where we visit the In Flanders Fields Museum.

Day 12. Flanders Fields / Ypres. This morning we'll orient ourselves with the Ypres Salient Battlefields with a visit to Essex Farm, where John McCrae wrote the famous poem "In Flanders Fields". Then we visit the German cemetery of Langemark - resting place of over 44,000 young Germans (many "student volunteers"). We continue on to Vancouver's Corner to see the haunting memorial of the Brooding Soldier at Saint Julien. This afternoon an optional tour to Dunkirk will be available. This evening you can witness the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which records 54,384 names of missing troops during the Ypres Salient battles.

Day 13: Passchendaele / Ypres. We begin with a visit to the Canadian Memorial at Crest Farm, the objective of the 1st Canadian Corps on Passchendaele Ridge. Next, we visit the largest Commonwealth Cemetery at Tyne Cot, where the Canadians first began the Third Battle of Ypres to take Passchendaele. The Passchendaele Museum features an actual battle ground with trenches and German defenses. We continue to Hill 62 to view a well-preserved area which was part of the original Canadian Front Line (also known as Sanctuary Wood). We finish with some free time in Ypres to relax or to buy excellent Belgian chocolate.

Day 14: Paris. We travel to Paris, and we'll have some free time to stroll in the quaint quarter of our centrally-located hotel before checking in. Tonight's dinner will be at a charming restaurant followed by a cruise along the Seine River.

Day 15: Paris. On our city tour of Paris we will see the Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, Les Champs Elysées, Notre Dame Cathedral, Saint-Germain-des-Prés and more. The afternoon is free for strolling and photographing, and this evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Return. A warm adieu to France as we fly home.

Tale of Two Cities London & Paris

London and Paris - two of the world's most famous cities, each rich with eye-opening history, architectural grandeur, arts, shopping, and world class cuisine!

In London, we tour through the city's historic quarters and see many of its iconic attractions: the Tower of London, Big Ben, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace, and more. There will be included visits to Westminster Abbey, and Covent Garden. Highlights will include a West End theatre show, and a day trip to the lovely countryside of the Cotswolds - beloved for their rolling hills, thatched-cottage villages and stately homes built of local yellow limestone.

Then we board the legendary Eurostar high-speed train which will whisk us through the Channel Tunnel – the "Chunnel" - and on to Paris. In Paris our tour takes us through many of its historic districts such as Montmartre and Marais, and see iconic landmarks including the Arc de Triomphe, the Opera, Grand Palais and the Champs-Elysées. Highlights will include a 360-degree view of Paris and the Eiffel Tower from the Montparnasse Tower, an evening cruise on the River Seine, and a day trip through the countryside to Giverny to see the home and gardens of Claude Monet – the setting for so many of the impressionist artist's famous waterlily paintings.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- First Class hotels
- Breakfast daily (full English breakfast in London, generous continental buffet breakfast in Paris
- 6 dinners and 2 lunches
- Theatre show in London's West End
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal

May 4 - \$6497

May 18 - \$6597

- Single Supplement \$1290
- Ottawa or Halifax add \$90
- Winnipeg or Calgary add \$190
- Vancouver or Edmonton add \$490



<u>10 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> MAY 4 - 13 MAY 18 - 27

We will be staying in First Class, centrally-located hotels in both cities. In London we will stay at the *Park Plaza Waterloo* (or similar), situated on the south side of the River Thames The hotel boasts impressive views of the river and the London skyline, and is within easy walking distance of some of the city's most well-known landmarks, as well as train and tube stations.

In Paris we will stay at the *Holiday Inn Bastille* (or similar). This elegant "belle époque" building has modern facilities and is within walking distance of the Gare de Lyon (a major metro hub), Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opéra Bastille, the Left Bank of the Seine and many other attractions.

Both hotels have comfortable fully air-conditioned guestrooms, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, and Wi-Fi. Each hotel also has a fitness room.

*** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. Day 1: Departure. We depart with Air Canada for London.

Day 2: London. Upon arrival in London we transfer to our centrally-located hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure until this evening's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: London City Tour. We begin with a visit to Westminster Abbey for a guided tour of this magnificent Gothic church, the traditional site of coronations and burial site for English monarchs. We continue to take in some of London's other legendary highlights: Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Canadian War Memorial and more.

Day 4: Day trip to Oxford and the Cotswolds. We travel first into the green countryside and visit The Cotswolds – a region of many small old towns and villages famed for their postcard-perfect honey-coloured cottages nestling in the valleys and wooded hillsides. We will stop at one or two of the villages to explore. Then we will visit the university town of Oxford which for over 900 years has been home to royalty, scholars and some of the world's brightest minds. A walking tour takes us past several of the university's 30 colleges and their picture-perfect courtyards. If possible we will tour one of them. This evening we enjoy dinner at a typical pub – as authentic a British experience as you can get!

Day 5: Covent Garden / Theatre. We walk through the West End Theatre District to Covent Garden - one of the liveliest districts in London. Originally a flower market, Covent Garden has evolved into an area of stylish shops, market stalls, cafes, bars, restaurants and pubs, not to mention the many entertaining street performers. After some free time, we will walk to an evening performance your choice between 2 of the West End's top shows.

Day 6: Paris via Eurostar! Cheerio to London and bonjour Paris, as we whiz through the Channel tunnel at 320 km per hour on the high speed Eurostar train. Incrediby, in just over two hours we will be in central Paris. We will have some time to relax before our dinner at a charming bistro. **Day 7: Paris.** Today's panoramic tour will include the major highlights of Paris, beginning with a trip to the top of the Montparnasse Tower for a mesmerizing view of the City of Lights, including the best view of the Eiffel Tower. We then continue our tour and see the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysées, Place de la Concorde, the Opéra (founded in 1669) and Notre Dame Cathedral. From here we continue to the beautiful and historic Montmartre area and a visit to the Sacré Coeur Basilica for breathtaking views of Paris. We will have some free time to explore Place du Terte and watch the artists at work. Tonight's dinner is at a typical and authentic Montmartre

Day 8: Day tour to Giverny and Monet's Garden. Today we leave the city to visit Giverny, where the impressionist artist Monet lived and created a stunning garden of diverse symmetry and colour. Monet mixed the simplest flowers (such as daisies and poppies) with the rarest varieties. This is where he painted the famed "Japanese Bridge", and the delicate "Water Lilies" which have been forever immortalized in his incredible works. After our visit to his home and gardens, we stop at the Musée des Impressionismes for a light lunch before returning to the city.

Day 9: At Leisure / Seine Cruise. A day at leisure to visit, or revisit, those attractions that interest you. Your Tour Manager will be on hand to advise and assist. In the evening we take a cruise on the Seine to view Paris from another perspective, a chance to appreciate the illuminated brilliance of The City of Light.

Day 10: Return. We bid adieu to Paris and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- First Class hotel
- Full buffet breakfast daily
- 6 dinners
- 3 lunches
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - \$5997
- Single Supplement \$1290
- Winnipeg or Calgary add \$190
- Vancouver or Edmonton add \$390

Paris – the beloved City of Light - is, they say, Europe's most romantic city.

From Montmartre to the Champs-Elysées and beyond, this city has provided inspiration to countless artists, writers and musicians through the ages. Today Paris is equally renowned for its cuisine, museums and spectacular art galleries. It is a city like no other, and all who visit experience its true joie de vivre!

On this in-depth tour we'll visit all of the sights you've heard about, some that you haven't, and enjoy a few days exploring outside the city. The most recognizable landmark in Paris is the Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair and considered one of the most beautiful structures in the world. Other famous landmarks include the Arc de Triomphe (a magnificent monument built for Napoleon in 1809), the imposing Notre Dame Cathedral, The Louvre (the world's largest museum, home to the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo) and the Champs-Elysées - perhaps the world's most beautiful street.

10 DAYS • MAY 18 - 27

A highlight of our tour will be an evening cruise on the River Seine - a chance to enjoy a unique view of the city a wonderful experience especially as the city is dramatically lit and the Eiffel Tower sparkles!

Outside the capital we will visit Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon and Gardens, at Versailles – the lavishlydecorated Royal Chateau built by Louis XIV, the Sun King. We will also visit Giverny – the country home and gardens of the beloved Impressionist painter Monet.

We will stay at the centrally-located First Class *Holiday Inn Bastille* (or similar) – a charming and intimate, yet modernized hotel within walking distance of Notre Dame, the Seine River, the Left Bank, and more.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. Day 1: Departure. We depart for Paris.

Day 2: Paris. Upon arrival we will enjoy a short tour of the Luxembourg Gardens and then proceed to our centrally-located hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure until this evening's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: City Tour / Seine Dinner Cruise. On today's city tour we will cross between the left and right banks across the ornate bridges, and see the major highlights of Paris: The Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, Place de la Concord, Champs-Elysees, the gothic exterior masterpiece Notre Dame, and so much more. Included will be a visit to Montparnasse Tower (allowing a breathtaking 360 degree view of Paris and the Eiffel Tower), the magnificent Opera Garnier and the grand parfumeur — The House of Fragonard, known for their passionate dedication to the making of fine perfume! In the evening, we enjoy an illuminated dinner cruise on the River Seine!

Day 4: Food Tasting. We explore the old Les Halles market district, famous for having been the site of the central Paris food market for many centuries. This quarter is still home to a wealth of specialist food purveyors. On our tour we'll visit historic streets with stops at some excellent specialty shops, including Paris' oldest patisserie, to taste a variety of sweet and savoury seasonal produce: cheese, pastries, chocolate, fruit, and more.

Day 5: Giverny. We leave the city to visit Giverny, where Monet lived and created a stunning garden of diverse symmetry and colour. Monet mixed the simplest flowers (daisies and poppies) with the rarest varieties and let them grow freely. This is where he painted immortal masterpieces including The Japanese Bridge and the delicate Water Lilies series. We will also visit, and enjoy lunch, at the local Musee des Impressionnismes – an art museum focused on the Impressionist period. We will enjoy a walk through the charming village in which Monet lived for decades, with free time before returning to Paris.

Day 6: At Leisure. There is so much to do and see in Paris, and your Tour Manager will be happy to advise and assist. You may want to visit the Louvre, or join a day trip to the Vimy Ridge Memorial, which honours the Canadians who died here during the First World War.

Day 7: Morning at leisure / Marais and Montmartre. Our morning is at leisure to explore Paris on our own. This afternoon we join Parisians and ride the local metro (subway) to see a different side of the city including an afternoon walking tour of the historic Marais district - the closest you will get to the feel of medieval Paris. A glance at some of the beautiful buildings and houses indicates the wealthy status of the former residents. This is where Victor Hugo lived and wrote Les Misérables. Today, this neighbourhood is home to many art galleries, designer shops and one of Europe's most well-known Jewish quarters. From here we continue to another historic area: Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur. At the Place du Tertre we can admire artists at work while they try to capture the magic of Paris on canvas!

Day 8: Musee D'Orsay / Champagne Tour & Tasting. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Impressionist movement we will visit the Musee D'Orsay. It is one of the world's most visited and largest museums, famous for housing the most impressive collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist masterpieces from the works of Morisot, Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir, Cezanne, Seurat, Sisley, Gauguin, and van Gogh. The stunning architecture housing these exquisite pieces of art is in a former railway station on the Seine River that was built for the 1900 Exposition in the Beau-Arts style. The spacious and luminous space creates a perfect space for the artworks. magnificently displayed! Later, we will indulge our taste buds with a Champagne tour and tasting!

Day 9: Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon and Gardens, at Versailles Palace. We leave the city to visit the "Petit Trianon", built in the middle of the gardens at Versailles. It was created as a pleasure palace for the mistress of Louis XV, and later used by Marie Antoinette for her exclusive use and enjoyment. Hear the stories of how she tried to escape the court life and shake off her royal duties! Lunch is included on the edge of the Grand Canal Park of the Palace of Versailles. This evening we bid adieu to the "City of Light" at our Farewell Dinner!

Day 10: Return. Air Canada takes us home.

Southern France and Paris

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France
- First Class hotels
- Full buffet breakfast daily
- 10 dinners with wine and coffee
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto April 8 - \$6597

April 23 - \$6797

- Single supplement \$1490
- Montreal add \$90
- Ottawa add \$290 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Halifax add \$690
- Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$990

3-Centre Tour to

• Paris • Provence • French Riviera

Any visit to France is a feast for the senses, as each region offers a diversity of scenery, architecture, culture, attractions and cuisine. This tour will take in the 3 most popular destinations in France, with plenty of sightseeing as well as time at leisure to explore on your own.

Paris - We begin with a 4-night stay in France's capital, with its rich history and endless incredible attractions and cultural events. In addition to our touring program there will be free time to visit one of Paris' famous museums or to enjoy a stroll in one of its quaint quarters.

Avignon - We then spend 5 nights in this picturesque Provencal walled city - the perfect base from which to explore Provence with its Roman and medieval heritage, sculpted buildings and sumptuous food markets. The legendary countryside here is dotted with vineyards and lavender fields, all beautifully bathed in a golden hue.

Nice - Our final 4 nights will be in the heart of the French Riviera, with its turquoise waters, sidewalk cafes and pastel colour buildings. The beachfront of Nice is skirted by the Promenade des Anglais, a delightful place to stroll. 15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024 APRIL 8 - 22 APRIL 23 - MAY 7

We will stay in First Class hotels, all of which are centrally located in the towns and cities we stay.

Tour Highlights:

- Paris full-day city tour, evening cruise on the Seine River and visit of Versailles
- Walking tour of Avignon and visit of the Popes Palace
- Luberon most beautiful villages and lavender museum
- Walking tours of Arles (visit the Roman Colosseum), St-Remy, and Les-Baux multimedia show
- Visit of Pont Du Gard Roman aqueduct historic site and wine tasting at Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyard
- Walking tours of Nice and St-Tropez
- Visit of Eze, Monaco and Monte Carlo
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Paris.

Day 2: Paris. We arrive in Paris, and enjoy a short tour of the quaint quarter near our hotel, and free time for lunch. The rest of the day is free until this evening's Welcome Dinner at a charming Parisian Brasserie.

Day 3: Paris. Our full-day panoramic tour will show us the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, the Opera, the "Left Bank", Notre Dame Cathedral, Champs Elysees, Montmartre and much more.

Day 4: Versailles. We leave the city for the splendour of Versailles. Created by the Sun King, Louis XIV, the palace was the envy of all European rulers. We will have a guided tour and a chance to stroll through the meticulous, statue-lined gardens, before returning to Paris. Afternoon at leisure to explore Paris on our own.

Day 5: Paris / Cruise On Seine. A day at leisure. Your Tour Manager will be on hand to advise and assist you with the infinite choice of attractions and museums. Tonight's dinner will be followed by a cruise along the Seine River, a wonderful way to see Paris illumination.

Day 6: TGV Train / Avignon. We travel aboard the highspeed TGV train, the fastest scheduled rail journey in the world! Upon arrival in Avignon we enjoy a walking tour and visit the Pont (bridge) d'Avignon and the Palace of the Popes - an imposing Gothic structure and city landmark.

Day 7: St-Remy / Les Baux / Arles. This full-day tour in the heart of Provence begins in the pretty village of St-Remy-de-Provence, with its Roman vestiges and weekly Provencal market. Next is Les Baux-de-Provence, magnificently situated amidst incredible rock formations. Here we will enjoy an outstanding audio-visual show which will totally immerse us in the images. Finally we proceed to Arles - a city of art and culture. On our walking tour of Arles we see the charming old town, Van Gogh's famous "café de la nuit" and visit the Roman coliseum and theatre. There will be free time before returning to Avignon.

Day 8: Avignon. At leisure to enjoy Avignon's pleasant streets and interesting museums, or perhaps visit nearby Aix-en-Provence.

Day 9: Luberon Villages. We travel to the Luberon and discover, scattered across the countryside, the wonderful villages classified as "the most beautiful villages of France". See Gordes - a hill top village with narrow alleys and passageways that wind between medieval buildings, Bonnieux - a typical Provencal market town, Rousillon - with its ochre landscape and Coustellet for a most interesting visit of the lavender museum.

Day 10: Pont Du Gard / Rhone Valley. This morning we discover the famous Pont Du Gard. Built by the Romans, it was a technical and artistic masterpiece ahead of its time. Then we travel through the countryside and vineyards to Châteauneuf-du-Pape for a vineyard visit and tasting. We return to Avignon for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 11: St-Tropez / Cote D'Azur / Nice. Today we travel to the French Riviera with a stop in quaint St-Tropez enroute. This one time fishing village has become a fashionable resort frequented by writers, artists and celebrities. After some time on our own to stroll the charming old town and lively harbour we continue our journey along the Cote d'Azur to the elegant city of Nice.

Day 12: Nice. Our city tour takes in the Promenade des Anglais, Cimiez Quarter and Convent Gardens. We will also see Nice's old town with its flower market, City Hall and pedestrian streets lined with shops and cafes. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 13: Eze / Monaco / Monte Carlo. We drive along the rugged and scenic Mediterranean coast to the medieval town of Eze, which offers one of the most beautiful panoramas of the French Rivera. Then we continue on to Monaco where we visit the historic core (known as The Rock), see the Changing of the Guards and the Prince's Palace. After some free time here we visit Monte Carlo with its lush gardens and famous casino.

Day 14: Nice. At leisure to enjoy Nice's pedestrian streets or lively waterfront, or perhaps visit nearby Cannes or another resort town on the Riviera. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Home. We say "au revoir" to France and fly home from Nice, via Paris or Amsterdam.

Springtime in Provence plus Marseille

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily
- 10 dinners with wine and coffee
- 2 special lunches (including a special savoury truffle lunch)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$6197
- Single supplement \$990
- Ottawa add \$190 (for round-trip ground transport to Montreal airport)
 - * Add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto on the way home
- Vancouver add \$490. Halifax add \$790.
- Winnipeg, Calgary or Edmonton add \$1090

Renowned for its welcoming climate, charming towns and villages, world-renowned gastronomic traditions, photogenic landscapes and rich history, Provence is one of France's top destinations. And never more so than in springtime, when the fields are ablaze with blooming lavender wisteria, and colourful wildflowers.

Our home base for 10 nights will be Avignon, in the heart of Provence. This beautiful city is known for its magnificent 18th century architecture, shaded squares, narrow streets named after ancient trades (bonnetterie, teinturier etc.), gardens along the Rhône River, colourful food markets, boutiques and museums. The city is also a lively arts and cultural centre, and boasts a fine public transportation system with regular service to surrounding towns.

We will stay at the 4-star *Mercure Pont d'Avignon*, located in a quiet area within the old city walls - an easy walk to restaurants, shopping streets and main attractions. Hotel facilities include a bar, lounge, garden and free WiFi.

We conclude our tour with 2 nights in the multicultural city of Marseille with its rich maritime history, vibrant old

14 DAYS • APRIL 17 - 30

port, quaint neighbourhoods, impressive esplanade and breathtaking views over the Mediterranean Sea.

Tour Highlights:

- Visit to the Popes Palace and famed Pont d'Avignon.
- Chef demonstration and tasting of local specialties.
- Visit to Arles & Camargue, and typical Manade lunch.
- Provence Roman heritage Maison Carrée, Nimes Amphitheatre, Pont du Gard and Orange Theater.
- Luberon villages, and a visit to the Lavender Museum.
- Mont Ventoux, Provencal's largest market, wine tasting.
- Truffle hunt including a savoury lunch.
- Walking tour of Aix-en-Provence and village of Cassis.
- 2-night stay in Marseille and tour of the highlights.
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Springtime in Provence

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Marseille via Paris.

Day 2: Avignon. We arrive in Marseille and transfer to Avignon. The rest of the day is free until our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Avignon Walking Tour. On our walking tour this morning we will see the highlights of Avignon; the Pont d'Avignon, the lively Place de l'Horloge, and the pedestrian streets. We'll visit the Palace of the Popes - an imposing Gothic structure where several popes resided during the middle ages. We conclude with a visit to Les Halles -Avignon's quaint food market, where a local chef will offer a cooking demonstration and tasting of Provencal specialties.

Day 4: At Leisure in Avignon. A free day to explore the town, its charming streets, museums and vibrant markets.

Day 5: Arles / Camargue. We begin with a visit of Arles, once Julius Caesar's capital of Gaul. Here we follow in the footsteps of Van Gogh to the sites captured in his many paintings. We will be able to see the remarkable Roman and typical Provencal architecture. We then travel to Camargue – a national wildlife reserve of exceptional beauty and home to an immense plain of marshes and lagoons - refuge to over 300 species of birds (including pink flamingos). We will enjoy a special lunch at a typical "Manade" specializing in the breeding of bulls, with "cowboys" working with the famous Camargue horses. We end the day with a visit of Carmargue's capital, Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, a city of traditions superbly situated at the mouth of the Rhone River and Mediterranean Sea.

Day 6: Uzes / Pont Du Gard / Nimes. This full-day excursion begins with a walking tour of Uzes - the premier duchy of France. This dazzlingly beautiful commune has shaded boulevards, medieval streets and handsome houses. Then we discover the Pont du Gard, built in the 1st century AD - a technical and artistic masterpiece. We finish the day in Nîmes ("neem"), which boasts some of the world's best preserved Roman monuments. We will visit the impressive amphitheatre and Maison Carrée (square house) followed by some free time in the historic centre.

Day 7: At Leisure in Avignon.

Day 8: Luberon Villages. Scattered across the countryside are the wonderful villages of the Luberon - known as "the most beautiful villages of France". We see Rousillon, with its ochre landscape; Gordes, a hilltop village with narrow alleys and passageways that wind between medieval buildings; and Coustellet, for a most interesting visit to the lavender museum.

Day 9: Vaison-La-Romaine / Mont Ventoux / Winery. First we visit Vaison-Ia-Romaine, a small Provencal town nestled in a valley. Once a prosperous Roman city, it is known today for its fabulous market - the largest in all of Provence! Next is the summit of Mont Ventoux for a breathtaking view of the Toulourenc Valley. We finish this memorable day with a visit to a local winery, enjoying a stroll through the grounds and a taste of the wonderful wines produced in this region.

Day 10: At Leisure in Avignon.

Day 11: Orange / Truffle Hunting / Savoury Lunch. We first visit Orange - the "Gateway to Southern France". Founded in 30 BC, Orange remains marked by the dynastic seal of William III of Orange, who became King of England in 1689. We will see the famous Triumphal Arch and visit the Roman theatre. Then we proceed through the countryside to meet a warm-hearted family and discover the mysteries of one of the world's most coveted culinary treasures: the truffle. These "Black Diamonds" are known for their subtle aroma and earthy flavour. A delicious lunch of finely prepared truffle dishes awaits following our "cavage" demonstration with the family dogs.

Day 12: Aix / Cassis / Marseille. We travel to Aix-en-Provence (locally known as Aix – pronounced "ex"). This is one of France's most beautiful cities, with majestic public squares, shaded avenues, graceful fountains and elegant Baroque-style buildings built with the distinctive yellow Provencal stone. On our walking tour we see the Cours Mirabeau and the market where residents shop for fresh produce and flowers. We then proceed to visit Cassis - a former fishing village and today a resort town picturesquely located in a niche on the Mediterranean Sea at the foot of steep cliffs. We end in Marseille for a 2-night stay by the quaint old port.

Day 13: Marseille. Highlights of our Marseille city tour include the Esplanade du J4, Promenade Laffond, Notre-Dame de la Garde and a walking tour through the ancient Le Panier neighbourhood. The afternoon is free to visit one of the famous museums or go shopping in the stylish boutiques of the Republic Quarter. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Return. Au revoir, France! Air France takes us back to Canada via Paris.

Mediterranean Magic

The French Riviera, the Italian Riviera, and Tuscany

It is with good reason that the Mediterranean region is such a popular travel destinations: mild weather; historic sites and romantic scenic beauty. There are villages made from ancient golden stone, grand castles, chateaux and hillside vineyards. The aroma of citrus trees and lavender fill the air. The museums, galleries, cobblestone streets and colourful local markets add their own appeal.

The French Riviera - Beautiful sunsets, sidewalk cafes, flower markets and vineyards. Our 6-night stay in Nice (on a dreamy stretch of the French Riviera known as the Cote d'Azur) is at the boutique styled *Brice Garden Hotel* - located within a five-minute walk of the beach, old town and flower market. Highlights of our visit here include:

- Nice seaside old-world opulence and vibrant street life
- St. Tropez sizzling jet-set favourite
- Port Grimaud little Venice of Provence
- Grasse perfumery of Provence
- Tourrettes-sur Loup medieval city of artists
- Saint-Paul favourite haunt of Picasso and Roger Moore
- Eze a jewel in the Riviera's crown
- Monaco / Monte Carlo playground of the rich & famous

The Italian Riviera is known for its many picturesque and historic towns and villages, dramatic scenery of spectacular

<u>14 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 24 - MAY 7 MAY 7 - 20

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

included with dinners)

from Toronto - \$6997

First Class hotels

COST:

Flights with Air France and KLM

• All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

per person, double occupancy,

Single Supplement - \$1190

Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$690

 Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, or Winnipeg add \$1090 (Toronto overnight coming home)

 Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily (wine, mineral water, and coffee

cliffs, rugged coastline and small bays. We will stay 2 nights in one of the quaint seaside villages on the Ligurian Coast. On the Italian Riviera we'll visit:

- Portofino beautiful coastal village on its own peninsula
- Santa Margherita picture-perfect seaside promenade
- Cinque Terre 5 villages with dramatic coastal scenery

Tuscany - Picture-postcard hills covered by vineyards, olive groves and stone farmhouses, and the great renaissance cities of Florence and Pisa. We stay in the resort town of Viareggio graced with a lovely coastline of sandy beaches and parks. We will stay at the *Hotel President*, located right on the seafront esplanade across from the beach. In Tuscany we will visit:

- Siena medieval home to the famous Palio horse race
- Chianti vineyards, olive groves, stone farmhouses
- Florence Cradle of the Renaissance
- Pisa world famous leaning tower
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Nice via Amsterdam.

Day 2: Nice. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Nice. Our guided tour of Nice includes the Promenade des Anglais, the Port, and a walking tour in the old town with its eye-popping flower market and lively pedestrian-only streets lined with shops and cafes.

Day 4: Day trip to St. Tropez / Grimaud / Cote De L'estrelle. We travel to St. Tropez to explore the village's narrow streets, Provencal squares and charming old port. Then the local ferry takes us to Port Grimaud (known as "Venice Provencal"), where we'll enjoy a boat ride through its colourful canals. This will be followed by a drive along the coast on "Ia Corniche d'Or" cut into the red rocks of the Esterel Mountains, forming a beautifully rugged landscape.

Day 5: Day trip to Grasse / Saint-Paul. Today's excursion begins in Grasse, France's legendary perfume capital, where we will visit a perfumery museum and factory. Then we continue to the medieval village of Tourrettes-sur-Loup, which offers splendid vistas over the hills and sea. We travel through the Gorges of the Loup River for more spectacular views enroute to Saint-Paul, a quaint 13th century fortified village brimming with galleries, boutiques, and sidewalk cafes. During our walking tour through the winding streets have your camera ready to capture carved fountains, statues, and architectural treasures.

Day 6: Day trip to Eze / Villefranche-Sur-Mer. Our tour begins in the medieval town of Eze, which offers a beautiful panorama of the French Rivera. Then we travel along the Mediterranean coast to Cap Ferrat, with its luxurious estates and pine groves. Here we visit the sumptuous Ephrussi-de-Rothschild Villa and Gardens. We finish the day in the lovely resort town of Villefranche-sur-mer.

Day 7: At Leisure in Nice. At leisure to explore, shop, or enjoy a local cafe. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions.

Day 8: Monaco / Monte Carlo / Sestri Levante. We travel to Monaco for a guided tour of the city and the beautiful harbour of Monte Carlo. Then we enter Italy and proceed to the delightful little seaside town of Sestri Levante for a 2-night stay. The town is stunningly situated on a narrow peninsula flanked by beaches. One of the bays - Baia delle Favole - is named in honour of Hans Christian Andersen, who visited in the mid-1800s (favole means "fairy tale"). **Day 9: Portofino / Santa Margherita.** We board the local train to visit Portofino – a small and postcard-perfect coastal village adorned with pastel-coloured houses, highend boutiques and seafood restaurants that fringe its Piazzetta (the small cobbled square overlooking the harbour which is often home to super-yachts). A path leads from the Piazzetta to Castello Brown - a 16th-century fortress and museum with art exhibitions and panoramic views of the town and the Ligurian Sea. This afternoon we enjoy a boat ride to Santa Margherita, known for its breezy beach promenade adorned with old aristocratic architecture.

Day 10: Day trip to Cinque Terre. We travel by coach and train to Cinque Terre - five villages that cling dramatically to the cliffs along the rocky coastline. We first stop in Monterosso - one of the most impressive villages. Then we take a short cruise to Vernazza - the truest "fishing village" on the Italian Riviera. After some free time we head for Manarola - a romantic village built on a high rock 70-metres above sea level. Later we continue to the beautiful seaside Tuscan town of Viareggio for our final 4 nights.

Day 11: Day trip to Florence. We take the train to Florence for a full-day visit. We'll first stop at the Piazzale Michelangelo for the best view over the city. Then on our guided walking tour of the historic centre we'll see the multi-coloured marble Cathedral, Signoria Square, the Baptistery, and the Basilica of Santa Croce. There will be free time for lunch and to explore, then return to our hotel.

Day 12: Day trip to Siena and Chianti. A full-day tour to the wine country. The medieval city of Siena may be famous for its annual traditional Palio horse race, but it also happens to be a beautiful city brimming with history. We will visit the Cathedral and see the Piazza del Campo, considered one of the most beautiful squares in the world. After a morning of history it's time to unwind, so we proceed to Chianti for a tasting of the well known wines of this region.

Day 13: Day Trip to Pisa. This morning we visit Pisa by train. The stunning buildings of the Campo Dei Miracoli (the Field of Miracles) have amazed visitors for centuries. They include the Leaning Tower – yes still leaning! - the Duomo (Cathedral) and the Baptistry. After some free time we return to Viareggio for an afternoon at leisure. This evening is our festive Farewell Dinner with entertainment.

Day 14: Return. We fly home via Paris.

Holland and Belgium

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner (with wine) daily
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7297
- Single Supplement \$1590
- Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg, or Calgary - add \$290
- Vancouver or Edmonton add \$390

2-Centre Holiday in Amsterdam and Antwerp, plus a night in Luxembourg

Holland and Belgium are two of the most-visited countries in Europe, and spring is especially a wonderful time for strolling through the ancient cities and for seeing the tulip fields and flowers that bloom early.

Holland evokes images of windmills, clogs, canals, diamonds and cheese markets. The capital, Amsterdam, is known as the "Venice of the North" thanks to its miles of canals spanned by hundreds of bridges. It is picturesque, easy to get around and most of the residents speak excellent English. Amsterdam is also the perfect base from which to explore the rest of this compact country. In April, the tulips burst into a blaze of colour that carpets the countryside, so we will visit the spectacular flower displays at the famous Kuekenhof Gardens. Our other included excursions will show you many other facets of this charming country.

Moving from Holland to Belgium, we enjoy the vistas of pastoral landscapes that inspired the great artists of these countries: Reubens, Van Gogh, Jan Van Eyck and Rembrandt. We overnight and tour in the Grand Duchy of <u>13 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 10 - 22

APRIL 16 - 28

Luxembourg before proceeding to Antwerp, Belgium for a 5-night stay. Antwerp is an ancient city that has stood on the River Schelde for 1,500 years. The old quarter is a wonderful place in which to stroll with its great shopping, a magnificent cathedral and many wonderful cafes and restaurants, once the haunts of famous artists. The city generously displays its heritage in 15 art museums. In addition to our excursions to the historic cities of Brussels and Bruges we will also have time to try the country's famous beer, waffles and chocolate.

We will stay in excellent First Class hotels that are centrally located, so that the exploration of Amsterdam and Antwerp during your free time will be easy and delightful.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. Day 1: Departure. We depart for Amsterdam.

Day 2: Amsterdam. Upon arrival we transfer to our centrallylocated hotel. After some leisure time we enjoy an orientation walk, followed by our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Amsterdam and Dutch Countryside. Our sightseeing begins in Dam Square where the Amstel River was dammed in the 13th century, giving the city its name. In the shadow of Westerkerk church stands a statue of Anne Frank, the famed young Jewish diarist. Then in the old city centre we see 17th century townhouses and the Jewish quarter. We then leave the city for the Dutch countryside and a visit to "Archaic Holland" - the towns of Volendam, Zaanse and Marken. We will see windmills, a fishing village, a traditional cheese farm and a wooden shoe shop.

Day 4: Delft and The Hague. Our first stop will be Delft, the picturesque home of the famous blue and white Delftware pottery. After visiting the Royal Delft Factory, we proceed to The Hague – the seat of government and home of the Royal family. The UN's International Court of Justice sits in the neogothic Peace Palace. Our tour takes us to the city's historic centre with many homes preserved in their 17th century styles. A highlight here will be our guided visit of the masterpieces of the Mauritshuis collection. This world-famous collection includes paintings by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Rubens, Van Dyck and many other masters.

Day 5: Aalsmeer and Keukenhof. This morning we drive to Aalsmeer to see the spectacular Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer flower auction, where more than 20 million flower and plants are sold every day! Our visit will include the auction and the historical gardens. We then proceed to the gardens of Keukenhof, the world's largest gardens. They are unique in the way nature combines with artificial cultivation to create a garden where millions of bulbs bloom exactly on time each year. During our visit we will enjoy a "whisper" boat tour through portions of the 32 hectares displaying the beautiful bulb fields that surround the park. After a day of awesome blooms we return to Amsterdam.

Day 6: Amsterdam. A day at leisure. It is delightful strolling through the interesting streets, squares and street markets of this compact city. You may wish to visit the Van Gogh Museum which houses a wonderful collection of his work. Other optional excursions will be available. This evening, as a farewell to Amsterdam, we will enjoy the views of the bridges and historic buildings on a Canal Dinner Cruise.

Day 7: Luxembourg. We travel through pastoral scenery stopping in Maastricht for a short walking tour. Then we proceed to Luxembourg - the world's last remaining Grand Duchy and one of the world's most prosperous countries.

Day 8: Luxembourg / Antwerp, Belgium. Luxembourg is a picturesque city set on several levels of hills. Our walking tour will take in the historic quarters, where we'll see the red sandstone Castle Bridge, the Grand Ducal Palace and more. After some free time, we enter Belgium and proceed to Antwerp.

Day 9: Antwerp. Our tour begins in the old quarter with its gabled Flemish architecture and impressive castle. We visit the house in which Rubens was born. The historic heart of the city is Groenplaats Square, dominated by Our Lady's Cathedral and ringed with cafes and restaurants. The afternoon is free to visit one of the many museums or Middleheim Park, famed for its statuary.

Day 10: Bruges. Bruges is a favourite for European tourists one of the best-preserved medieval cities, with a richly-ornate medieval town centre that has changed little in the last 5 centuries. On our morning walking tour we see the belfry with its 47-bell carillon, the lace shops in narrow alleys, Belgium's oldest town hall and the Basilica. We will also enjoy a canal cruise so that we may appreciate the city views from a different perspective. During some free time after lunch, you can visit the lace parlours, chocolate makers or antique shops.

Day 11: Brussels. We visit Belgium's capital - headquarters to both the European Common Market and NATO. There are graceful avenues, cobbled streets, and at the centre is the stunning Grand Place, perhaps the most beautiful square in Europe, with its 15th century Town Hall. The rich guildhouses that line the square are topped with gold figures. The cheeky Manikin Pis is a famous statue, and the Galleries St. Hubert is Europe's oldest glass-covered shopping arcade. We stroll in Hot Sacre, a picturesque area of narrow streets, and see the Petite Sablon, a square ringed with Gothic columns that support 48 bronze statues commemorating the medieval guilds (trades) of Belgium. We see the Royal Palace and perhaps enjoy a sample at a waffle-making demonstration.

Day 12: Antwerp. A day at leisure. Getting around is easy so you may want to visit the cultural centre of Ghent, or take an optional tour to Waterloo - site of Napoleon's defeat, and Flanders Field where many battles were immortalized. Your Tour Manager will be happy to advise. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 13: Return. We return to Amsterdam for our flight home.

Scandinavia Norway, Denmark and Sweden

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily and 10 dinners
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

May 30 - \$8397

June 11 - \$8797

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- Single Supplement \$1790
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$190
- Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$490

Scandinavia is one of the most spectacular regions of the world, with a wonderful variety of cultures and experiences to discover.

There are beautiful, vibrant cities with scenic and historic interest, majestic fjords, stunning coastlines and unspoiled countryside. And because we will be visiting countries with the highest standards of living in the world, Scandinavia is a truly wonderful travel destination.

Our tour begins in Sweden and the welcoming capital city of Stockholm, spread out on 14 islands with Lake Malar on one side and the Baltic Sea on the other. Of course we will tour the city, and also enjoy an excursion to Sigtuna, the old capital of Sweden and now a picturesque town on the shores of Lake Mälaren.

From Sweden we travel to Norway where our sightseeing will include charming Bergen, a rail journey on the historic Flam Line, a spectacular fjord cruise, and inland to experience Norway's breath-taking mountains, deep valleys, spring waterfalls and clear lakes. In Norway's capital, Oslo, we will see the key sights and also learn the <u>14 DAYS • 2 DATES IN 2024</u> MAY 30 - JUNE 12 JUNE 11 - 24

history of the Vikings and brave Norwegian explorers during our visit to local museums.

From Oslo we take an overnight ferry to Denmark, the smallest and most continental of the Scandinavian countries, with its cosmopolitan capital city Copenhagen. Our journey here will take us along the scenic coastline to the North Sealand region - a place of natural beauty as well as the home of Frederiksborg Castle, built by King Christian IV in the 17th century and now housing the National History Museum with its treasure of paintings, tapestries and porcelain. Our city tour of Copenhagen will include the famous Little Mermaid statue and the picturesque Nyhavn Canal.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Scandinavia

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Stockholm, with a change of planes in Copenhagen.

Day 2: Stockholm. We arrive in Stockholm and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free until this evening's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Stockholm. Stockholm is built on 14 islands connected by 53 bridges, so it's no wonder this beautiful city is known as the "Venice of the North". On our tour we see the Old Town with its fascinating narrow cobblestone alleys, the Royal Palace and the Cathedral. We also visit the impressive City Hall where the annual Nobel Prize festivities take place.

Day 4: Sigtuna / Karlstad. We depart for Sigtuna, once the capital of Sweden and today a picturesque small town situated on the shores of Lake Mälaren. We will have some free time to enjoy the town before continuing to Karlstad for our overnight.

Day 5: Lillehammer / Fagernes. We cross into Norway and visit Lillehammer, home of the 1994 Olympics, to see the impressive ski jump and enjoy a stroll in this charming town. Then we continue to the small town of Fagernes for our overnight.

Day 6: Sognefjord / Flam / Bergen. Today will be a highlight of the tour as we take an incredibly scenic fjord cruise to fairy-tale Flam, situated in the innermost section of Aurlandsfjord - a tributary of the long and deep Sognefjord. After some time to explore the village we will board the historic Flam Railway - one of the steepest standard-gauge railway lines in the world, which will take us up to the high mountain station of Myrdal. Then we continue to Bergen for a 2-night stay.

Day 7: Bergen. Norway's second largest city and capital of fjord country, Bergen sits between the mountains and the sea. Our city tour shows us the Hanseatic timbered houses with pointed gables facing the harbour (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and we'll visit Troldhaugen - home of the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. The afternoon is free to explore the bustling Fish and Flower Market or the famous Bryggen area. You may want to take the funicular to the top of Floyen Mountain for amazing views of Bergen Harbour, North Peninsula and Askoy Island.

Day 8: Hardangervidda / Geilo. We cross the Hardanger Bridge, one of the largest suspension bridges in the world.

Then we drive along the spectacular Hardangervidda home to one of Norway's largest glaciers, which offers spectacular views of stunning glacial lakes that mirror the blue skies and soaring mountains. Later we arrive at the beautiful mountain region of Geilo.

Day 9: Stave Church / Oslo. We head for Oslo, enroute enjoying the alpine region with its spring waterfalls and crystal clear lakes. We will visit the amazing Heddal Stave Church, built in the 13th century and the largest in Norway, before arriving in Oslo.

Day 10: Oslo. Our city tour of the Norwegian capital shows us the Royal Palace, the National Theater, the new Opera House, the Parliament and medieval Akershus Fortress. We will enjoy a pleasant stroll through Frogner Park with its controversial sculptures by Gustav Vigeland and visit the City Hall with its striking murals. The afternoon is free to explore this charming city at your own pace.

Day 11: Oslo / Ferry to Copenhagen. Morning at leisure in Oslo. This afternoon we drive to Bygdoy Peninsula, where we'll visit the Fram Museum, which tells the incredible stories of Norwegian polar exploration. Our tour ends at the port where we board our overnight ferry to Copenhagen (accommodation in outside cabins, dinner and breakfast on board). Be sure to be up on deck when we depart as we sail past hundreds of small islands.

Day 12: North Sealand / Copenhagen. We arrive in Copenhagen and embark on an excursion through the Danish countryside to visit Frederiksborg Castle. This 17th century castle now houses the National History Museum with its many treasures of art. We continue with a drive around Fredensborg Castle - the Queen's summer residence with its lovely gardens, and then to the coast for a view of the magnificent Kronborg Castle, known as the castle of Shakespeare's Hamlet. Then we return to Copenhagen for a 2-night stay.

Day 13: Copenhagen. On our city tour of lively Copenhagen we see the ancient streets with their countless historic buildings, including Amalienborg Palace, Christiansborg Castle, the Danish Parliament, the Royal Opera House, the Little Mermaid statue, Gefion Fountain and the Nyhavn Canal with its charming outdoor restaurants. Afternoon at leisure. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Return. We fly back to Canada, direct to Toronto.

Swiss Alps and Italian Lakes

This unique tour begins in Switzerland, whose very name conjures up images of snow-capped mountains, majestic peaks reflected in glassy lakes and a countryside filled with picture-book villages and crystal clear air.

The moment we arrive in Zurich, the breathtaking Alps emerge as we travel through the picturesque countryside to the beautiful lakeside town of Lucerne for a 2-night stay.

After our stay in Lucerne we proceed, via touring in Bern and Interlaken, to the welcoming mountain resort town of Villars-sur-Ollon (also known as Villars) for a 5-night stay. We will experience the utmost in Alpine splendour at this traditional resort which is beautifully situated in the heart of the Vaudoise Alps, in view of the peaks of the Dents du Midi and the chain of Mont Blanc, with a sweeping view of the Rhone Valley. While the town has a busy little downtown area, it still retains a sense of coziness and tradition in the true Swiss sense. Villars will be our base for visiting the surrounding region with visits to Montreux, Gruyeres, Vevey, L'Etivaz and Zermatt - home of the mighty Matterhorn!

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily (wine and coffee with all dinners)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal

Depart May 11 - \$7997

- Depart May 18 \$8197
- Single Supplement \$1490
- Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg, or Vancouver - add \$90
- Calgary or Edmonton add \$190

<u>16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> MAY 11 - 26 MAY 18 - JUNE 2

Next, we traverse the Simplon Pass into Italy for a 7-night stay at Lake Maggiore's most beautiful resort town -Stresa. Bursting with flowers, sprinkled with fine old villas and famous for its lush gardens and mild climate, Stresa has been a holiday resort since the 19th century. On our non-touring days you can enjoy people-watching in the lovely town square, or take the cable car to the top of Monte Mottarone for famous views of distant snowy peaks and all 7 of the major Italian lakes. This idyllic spot is an ideal base for touring the beautiful Italian Lakes area, including the lively city of Milan. This will be a perfect opportunity to experience la vera Italia (the real Italy).

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Swiss Alps and Italian Lakes

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Zurich, non-stop from Toronto.

Day 2: Zurich / Lake Lucerne. We arrive in Zurich, then proceed to Vitznau where we board a boat and enjoy our first views of the breathtaking Swiss Alps while cruising on Lake Lucerne to our hotel. Tonight we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Lucerne. On this morning's walking tour we'll stroll along Lake Lucerne and through the city's Old Town, seeing the Hofkirche Church, the Old Town Hall, Chapel Bridge (the symbol of Lucerne) and the world famous Lion Monument carved in relief into a sandstone cliff. Afternoon at leisure to explore this beautiful city on your own, or to shop for a Swiss watch or chocolate.

Day 4: Interlaken / Bern / Villars. This full-day tour begins in Interlaken, the main tourist centre of the Bernese Oberland. The town lies between two lakes amid the towering Alps, and so views from the town are spectacular. We will see typical Swiss architecture, several 16th century churches and palatial hotels. We then travel to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bern. We'll stroll in the old town and see the Zeitglockentrum clock tower, Munster Cathedral, the Bear Pits and the historical fountains for which the town is known. We continue on to Villars for a 5-night stay.

Day 5: Montreux / Chateau Chillon / Vevey / Gruyere. We take a tour to Montreaux — naturally beautiful and one of Lake Geneva's most popular resorts. The nearby Chillon Castle is built on a rocky islet and has towers that reflect on the lake - very picturesque! The turrets offer fantastic views of Montreux, the lake and the Alps. The castle and its dungeons have been used as a prison over the years (Lord Byron wrote The Prisoner of Chillon here, and carved his name in one of the cells). After our castle visit we proceed to the fortified hilltop town of Gruyere in time for lunch and some time to stroll. We visit a cheese factory to learn about the traditional method for making cheese. A cellar visit with wine tasting is included.

Day 6: Zermatt. We board a train for the short ride to Zermatt - a village that lies at the foot of the Matterhorn. This is one of the most photographed mountains in the world, and has been visited by mountaineers from all around the world for centuries! We will tour the historic part of the village and enjoy some leisure time to stroll or to enjoy an optional ride on the cog wheel tram for a better view of the famous mountain. **Days 7 & 8: Villars.** At leisure. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions. There are many walking trails in and around the town, or opt for a train ride through the Alps.

Day 9: Stresa. We traverse the Simplon pass into Italy - a wonderful scenic day. We proceed to Stresa on the shore of Lake Maggiore for a 7-night stay.

Day 10: Stresa. We take a boat trip to Isola Bella to see the magnificent 16th century palace and gardens, built as a wedding gift. The garden features statues, fountains and terraces where peacocks roam among the scented shrubs.

Day 11: Locarno. Today's full day excursion takes us on one of Europe's most scenic railways – the narrow gauge *Centovalli Railway* – which threads its way across "a hundred valleys", past sleepy villages and over deep ravines. The train ends in Locarno, where we will enjoy an orientation tour of the town and then enjoy some free time. Explore the picturesque Old Town, see the beautiful subtropical gardens filled with palm trees and exotic flowers, stroll the lakeside promenades and enjoy the excellent shopping under the arcades of the Piazza Grande. Later we cruise back down the lake to Stresa.

Day 12: Stresa. A day to explore this town and enjoy the beautiful setting here. Relax with a cappucino at one of the lakeside cafes, or take an excursion to Lake Orta - a quaint, secluded lake with a medieval village on one of its islands.

Day 13: Lake Como Area. A very scenic day as we travel to Lake Como and the area around it - adorned with ancient villages, exquisite villas and beautiful gardens. Our first visit will be to the "the Pearl of Lake Como" - the town of Bellagio, and then the town of Como, Our walking tour of these beguiling towns will take us along cobbled lanes lined with elegant buildings exuding Old World elegance, and through the gardens of one of the many local Villas.

Day 14: Milan. We visit this very modern city, which also boasts the third largest Gothic Cathedral in the world. We see the Galleria, which was the first indoor shopping mall in Europe - a beautiful, elegant area built in the 19th century. This is the place to have a coffee, people watch and shop.

Day 15: Stresa. At leisure in Stresa, an ideal town for strolling. The walking trails around the lake are lovely, as is the shopping! Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Return. We transfer to the Milan airport for our flight back to Canada.

Grand Rail Tour of Switzerland

This unique rail tour transports us through some of the most stunning panoramic routes in the world!

There is no better way to experience Switzerland than by rail. Relax onboard and gaze through the large picture windows as our train climbs and winds its way through the Alps. Sometimes we will ascend to dizzying heights which offer some of the most spectacular views on earth, consisting of crystal clear mountain lakes nestled in pristine wilderness set against towering mountain ranges, and lakeside towns and picture-perfect villages dotting the landscape. To experience this from the comfort of a modern train is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Legendary trains during our tour:

- *Mount Pilatus* Panoramic gondolas take us to the summit to view 73 mountain peaks of Central Switzerland.
- Jungfrau Railway to Kleine Scheidegg connects to Europe's highest railway station - "Top of the World".
- *Bernina Express* This UNESCO Heritage line from St. Moritz to Tirano passes over an incredible 196 bridges, with its journey finishing in Lugano.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily, 2 lunches. Wine/beer, water & coffee with dinners.
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$10797
- Single Supplement \$1790
- Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$190
- Calgary or Vancouver add \$290
- Edmonton add \$390

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- A chocolate experience aboard the *Belle Epoque's fin de siecle coaches.*
- **Panoramic Express** (part of the *Golden Pass Line*) -From Lucerne we travel through Interlaken to Montreux, passing lakes, pastures, waterfalls and quaint chalets trimmed with flowerboxes, all nestled in picturesque valleys surrounded by jagged, snow-topped peaks. This is the quintessential Swiss experience.
- *Glacier Express* Perhaps the most popular route. Beginning in Zermatt and ending in St. Moritz, it takes us through mountain landscapes (including the mighty Matterhorn), deep gorges, 91 tunnels and across 291 bridges. The highest point of the trip is crossing the Oberalp Pass - over 6600 feet above sea level!
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Swiss Rail Tour

Day 1: Departure. We board our direct flight for Zurich.

Day 2: Zurich / Lucerne. We arrive in Zurich and transfer to the town of Vitznau, situated on Lake Lucerne. From here we enjoy breathtaking views of the lake and surrounding mountains as we cruise to our hotel in Lucerne - our home for the next 3 nights. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Lucerne. A guided walking tour takes us through the city's Old Town. We'll see the Hofkirche Church, wooden covered Chapel Bridge (the symbol of Lucerne) and the famous Lion Monument (carved into a sandstone cliff), followed by a visit of the interactive Swiss Museum of Transport. After some free time to explore, we'll enjoy a wonderful Swiss dinner.

Day 4: Mount Pilatus / Lucerne. We board an aerial cableway and panoramic gondola, to reach the summit of Mount Pilatus. Known as the "Dragon Ride", the cockpit-like cabin of the gondola has windows extending to the floor and provides breathtaking views in every direction.

Day 5: Golden Pass Train / Brienz / Panoramic Express /

Oberland Bernese. Our scenic train ride on the *Golden Pass Line* and the *Panoramic Express* train takes us via the Bruenig Pass to Interlaken through the heart of the Swiss Alps. Our first stop is Brienz, set in the midst of towering mountains, for some free time. Then we cruise along the turquoise-coloured Lake Brienz to Interlaken, where we'll board a funicular that whisks us up 5000 feet for fabulous views of the deep blue lakes below and snow-capped mountains in the distance, including one of Europe's highest mountains – the Jungfrau!

Day 6: Jungfrau Railway / Oberland Bernese. We board the Jungfrau Railway and cable car to Kleine Scheidegg - home to Europe's highest mountain, Jungfraujoch. We first take the Bernese Oberland Railway to Grindelwald, where we'll board the new Eiger Express, (a tri-cable aerial cableway) and ascend in 15 minutes. This state-of-the-art cabin takes us close to the north face of the Eiger at 1800 metres, so the views are breathtaking. To descend, we take a combination of the Wengeralp and Bernese Oberland Railway.

Day 7: *Golden Pass /* **Montreux**. The elegant *Golden Train* takes us from Interlaken to the shores of Lake Geneva. We'll travel along Lake Thun and through the scenic Simme Valley to Zweisimmen, where we board the *Golden Pass Panoramic* to Montreux. We arrive in Montreux for a 2-night stay on the chic, palm-studded Swiss Riviera.

Day 8: Chillon Castle / Montreux. Our walking tour will include a visit of Chateaux Chillon. Located on a rock on the banks of Lake Geneva, this water-castle is Switzerland's most visited historic building. For 400 years it was the residence of the Counts of Savoy, as well as where Lord Byron was imprisoned when he wrote "The Prisoner of Chillon" (his name is carved into his cell wall!) Afternoon at leisure. You may want to visit the museum dedicated to the rock group Queen!

Day 9: *Chocolate Train* / La Gruyere / Broc / Visp (Zermatt).

We board the stunning *Belle Époque* Coaches to experience the *Chocolate Train* en route to La Gruyere, where we will have some free time and enjoy a typical fondue lunch at a local chalet! Then we continue to Broc, home to the famous chocolate factory - Cailler, where we'll learn about chocolate production and taste some of the finest offerings. Later we'll proceed by train to the pretty town of Visp, in the Zermatt area (known as the 'Sun Terrace of Switzerland'), for a 2-night stay.

Day 10: Zermatt / Visp. A short train ride takes us to Zermatt for a casual walking tour of this quaint village, with the rest of the day at leisure. The air here is clear and clean because only electric cars are allowed to operate in the village. You may wish to climb to Gornergrat on Europe's highest open air cogwheel train. The train crosses impressive bridges and goes through tunnels with views of the majestic Matterhorn - the most photographed mountain in the world.

Day 11: *Glacier Express Train / Chur.* We travel aboard *The Glacier Express* (perhaps the most famous railway in the world) to Chur. The train meanders through untouched pristine mountain landscapes, deep gorges, breathtaking valleys, through 91 tunnels and across 291 impressive bridges!

Day 12: *Bernina Express /* **Lugano.** We board the *Bernina Express* for a truly spectacular rail journey. This 100-year-old heritage line has earned UNESCO World Heritage status for its ingenious engineering and the striking beauty of the scenery it winds through. We travel past craggy mountain peaks, high-alpine landscape, cascading waterfalls and the Morteratsch Glacier. From the highest point, the train begins its dramatic descent via the famous Brusio spiral viaduct to the valley floor at Tirano. The rest of the journey continues on the *Bernina Express* bus to Lugano, capturing the southern scenery of the Valtelline valley, and along Lake Como and Lake Lugano.

Day 13: Lugano. Lugano is a little taste of Italy in Switzerland, with an incredibly mild climate and a beautiful lake front. On our guided walking tour we'll see magnificent architecture as we walk the lovely narrow streets of the old city and along the lake shore. We'll visit the restored Romanesque St. Lawrence Cathedral that overlooks the town and take a short cruise to the town of Morcote - considered to be Switzerland's most beautiful village. Our Farewell Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Day 14: Return. We fly home, direct from Milan to Canada.

Iceland Land of Fire and Ice

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Icelandair (direct between Toronto and Reykjavik)
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Breakfast buffet and dinner daily
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$9597
- Single Supplement \$1490
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver add \$990
- * Western passengers for an additional \$99 p.p. double occupancy (\$189 single) you may choose to overnight in Toronto before or after the tour.

Since being discovered by the British and Scandinavians more than a thousand years ago, Iceland has evolved into a very modern society with a high standard of living and education - and a uniquely Icelandic culture.

While most Icelanders speak English, the country has preserved much of its Norse and Celtic heritage, adding uniquely Icelandic characteristics.

The very name "Iceland" evokes an image of vast ice and snow fields but in fact it has a remarkably moderate climate with an astonishing array of fjords, glaciers, active volcanoes, black lava fields, red sulphur, hot geysers, white rivers, waterfalls, and deep green valleys, all with a backdrop of mountains, ice-capped ranges, and towering cliffs. The inland features areas of volcanic formations, geysers, hot springs, and lakes, while the coastline is richly indented with bays. And above all is the

11 DAYS • MAY 11 - 21

warmth and hospitality of the welcoming Icelanders, so proud of their island nation.

On this tour we explore the wild beauty of the island. Our sightseeing will include a lagoon boat cruise, the spectacular Eastern Fjords, the charming "capital of the north" - Akureyri, Lake Myvatn National Park, surrounded by lava fields and renowned for its bird life, and the world famous Blue Lagoon where you will have the chance to soak in the photogenic turquoise thermal waters. There are few countries in the world that can compare to lceland's dramatic landscapes, flora and fauna. This photographer's and naturalist's paradise must be experienced first hand!

* This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.

Itinerary for Iceland

Day 1: Departure. We depart on our overnight flight to Reykjavik.

Day 2: Borgarnes. We arrive in Reykjavik, which means "Smoky Bay" due to the wisps of steam rising from its geothermal springs. After arrival we transfer to the Viking World Museum for a buffet breakfast and time to visit the exhibition. We then head north to our hotel in Borgarnes, stopping enroute to visit the spectacular Hraunfossar Waterfall - hundreds of meters wide, this is one of Iceland's most beautiful sights. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Akureyri. We begin our "ring tour" with a stop at the 3,000-year-old Grábrók Volcano. Grábrók is the biggest crater of three along this volcanic crack. Next we visit an Icelandic Horse farm to learn about this small and sturdy breed of horse that has remained unchanged since its introduction by the Vikings over 1100 years ago. Tonight we stay in Akureyri, the "Capital of the North".

Day 4: Godafoss / Lake Myvatn. This morning we will have time to explore the town of Akureyri before we head to Godafoss – "Waterfalls of the Gods" – one of the most spectacular in Iceland. We then visit Grenjadarstadur Turf House to see the best-preserved turf houses and discover the way of life of Icelanders before the 1900s. Next stop is Laxa Hydro Power Station for a brief talk and view, and where we will learn the importance of renewable energy, before proceeding to our hotel in Lake Myvatn for a 2-night stay.

Day 5: Lake Myvatn / Nature Baths. Today we explore the remarkable natural attractions of this area including Dimmugorgir (Dark Castles - towering lava formations), and the bubbling sulfur mudpots of Viti Crater and Krafla which mark the continental divide between the North American and Eurasian Teutonic Plates. This afternoon we have time to soak in the soothing mineral waters at the Myvatn Nature Baths.

Day 6: Egilsstadir. We continue east on the ring road to Dettifoss - the largest waterfall in Europe. Next is Modrudalur – the most isolated farm in Iceland, from where we will enjoy a spectacular view of Herdubreid, fondly referred to as the "Queen of all Mountains in Iceland". Before arriving at our hotel we will visit the Wilderness Centre in Egilsstadir for insights into how truly harsh life was in Iceland in previous centuries.

Day 7: Glacial Lagoon / Skaftafell. We travel along the east coast, with its towering mountains and sheer rock faces plunging into the sea to form Iceland's spectacular East Fjords. We will stop at Petra's Stone Collection. This unusual assortment of thousands of stones is located in a private home and spread out over a large garden. After our visit we drive to the heights of Almannaskard Pass past Lonsoraefi, a mountainous wilderness ringed by extinct volcanoes. At Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon we embark on a boat cruise to see up close where huge icebergs have broken off the ever-shifting mass of Breidamerkurjokull Glacier. We overnight in Skaftafell.

Day 8: Skaftafell National Park / Vik. At Skaftafell National Park we take a walk to get up close to the glacier itself. After travelling through Eldhraun - the largest mass of lava ever to flow on earth - we cross the volcanic sand desert of Myrdalssandur until we reach Vik for our overnight.

Day 9: Reykjavik. This morning we visit the Lava Centre lceland's newest attraction and one of the world's best exhibitions of seismic and volcanic activity. We will make a stop at Gullfoss ("Golden Waterfall") before continuing to the geothermal region of Haukadalur to see the Strokkur Geyser which erupts spectacularly (and very entertainingly) every 7 minutes. Our last visit is Pingvellier National Park, where the ancient parliament of the country was established in 930 AD, before we arrive in Reykjavik for our last 2 nights.

Day 10: Reykjavik. During our city tour of the capital we will see the old town centre, the Parliament, the Cathedral, the harbour and the National Museum. The afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we enjoy our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11: Blue Lagoon / Return. We visit the famous Blue Lagoon for an opportunity to bathe in the mineral-rich geothermal pools, before proceeding to the airport for our flight back to Canada.

Magic of Eastern Europe • Budapest • Vienna • Prague

On this immersive tour we will visit historic cities, fairytale medieval villages, Gothic castles and famous monuments in three of Europe's oldest countries.

We begin in the "Golden City of Prague" - the ancient capital of Bohemia and the best-preserved Baroque city in Central Europe. Built on seven hills and spanning the Vltava River, the city is small enough for a good walker to see most of the major sights, including its beautifully preserved Old Town, massive castle, statue-lined bridge, famous city squares and evocative Jewish Quarter, while enjoying the city's love of music (and perhaps the best beer in Europe). In the Czech Republic we'll also visit the UNESCO World Heritage City of Cesky Krumlov - a fairytale town with Renaissance and Baroque architecture.

Next is Vienna - one of Europe's most elegant and historic cities. Vienna boasts opulent buildings, impressive museums and the musical traditions of its famous opera, choirs and orchestras. Vienna's cultural legacy was shaped by its residents including Mozart, Beethoven, and Sigmund Freud. Of course the elegant shops that line the great avenues add to its captivating charm.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with KLM and Air France
- First Class hotels
- Full buffet breakfast daily, 10 dinners (with wine) and 3 lunches.
- Concert at the Schonbrunn Palace
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7597
- Single Supplement \$1490
- Montreal add \$190
- Ottawa add \$390 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Halifax add \$790
- Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$1090 (includes an overnight in Toronto on the way home)

<u>14 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> MAY 15 - 28 MAY 22 - JUNE 4

We finish off in Hungary's architecturally stunning capital - Budapest. With over 1,000 years of history, modern Budapest is perhaps the most exciting commercial, cultural and entertainment centre in Eastern Europe. Majestic bridges span the Danube River joining Buda's medieval grandeur with Pest's magnificent 19th century buildings, grand boulevards, beautiful opera house and Europe's oldest and 2nd largest Parliament building. The city abounds with lively pedestrian streets, squares and cafes and boasts numerous museums, art galleries and spas – earning its nickname of "Spa City". While in Budapest, we will even stay in a lovely spa hotel!

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Magic of Eastern Europe

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Prague, via Amsterdam.

Day 2: Prague. We arrive in Prague and transfer to our centrally-located hotel for a 4-night stay. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Prague. Our coach and walking tour will show us the stunning sights of the Hradcany Castle district, with visits to the majestic St. Vitus Cathedral, the Loretto Chapel and "The Golden Lane" - named after the goldsmiths who lived here in the 17th century. Famously, some of the alchemists attempted to turn metal into gold here!

Day 4: Prague. We continue our guided walking tour with a stroll across the Charles Bridge to Lesser Town's winding narrow streets, where we see the artisan houses, small 17th century palaces, the Jewish Ghetto and the famous astronomical clock. We will enjoy a river cruise through the historic district, then an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5: Prague. At leisure in the Golden City. Prague is a very pleasant and lively city in which to stroll, so you may want to revisit Little Town and some of the quaint shops (best buys are crystal and garnet jewelry). Enjoy a coffee and people watching in Old Town Square. After dinner, why not visit one of the local pubs to enjoy the famous dark ales brewed here?

Day 6: Cesky Krumlov / Vienna. We depart Prague and drive to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Cesky Krumlov. This picture postcard, beautiful fortified medieval town is surrounded by unspoiled countryside. Our walking tour will take us through the historic centre of narrow cobblestone streets winding along romantic nooks teeming with lively shops, cafes, and museums. Lunch is included. After our tour we will proceed to Vienna for a 4-night stay.

Day 7: Vienna. Our Vienna city tour captures the elegance and magnificence of the Ringstrasse Boulevard lined with palatial buildings including the Opera House, Hofburg and more, built when Vienna was the capital of the Austro-Hungarian empire. We visit the Schonbrunn Palace with its 440 rooms and lavish interiors. It is here in the Grand Gallery that Mozart gave his first royal concert. This evening we will dine right at the Palace followed by a concert performance of the works of Mozart and Strauss in the Palace Orangery.

Day 8: Day trip to the Vienna Woods and Mayerling. Our tour includes visits to the 12th century Cistercian Abbey and the former Imperial hunting lodge at Mayerling. We'll enjoy a special dinner with musical entertainment and wine at one of Vienna's famous wine villages.

Day 9: Vienna. At leisure. The planning of The Ringstrasse, the 1800s ring road around the Old Town, makes it easy to explore. You may want to visit the legendary Spanish Riding School to see a Lipizzaner horses training session, or venture to the countryside with its vineyards and quaint villages, like the opulent Melk Abbey. Vienna is known for its cafe culture, so be sure to stop and enjoy a coffee and a slice of Sacher Torte!

Day 10: Bratislava / Gyor. En route to Budapest we stop in two charming cities: Bratislava (capital of Slovakia), and the old Hungarian city of Gyor - the "City of Waters". We will have walking tours of both cities, through their quaint pedestrian Old Town centres abundant with statues, city squares and 18th century pastel buildings. Later we arrive at our spa hotel in Budapest, for a 4-night stay.

Day 11: Budapest. Our city tour begins on the Pest side at the magnificent Heroes' Square - an epic display of the history of the Magyars. A drive down the Grand Boulevard takes us past the magnificent Opera House, the House of Parliament, the Jewish Quarter (home to the world's 2nd largest synagogue) and more. We'll stroll through the lively pedestrian streets to the "Great Market Hall" and enjoy an included food tasting lunch. Later we cross over to Buda to the top of Gellert Hill with its bird's eye view over the Danube River and city. We finish in the Castle District, home to the Royal Palace, where we visit the famous Mathias Church and Fisherman's Bastion. Tonight we enjoy a typical Hungarian dinner and folklore show.

Day 12: Danube Tour. We drive along the Danube into Hungary's countryside and the Baroque, artisan village of Szentendre - an 18th century town with cobblestone streets, hidden alleys and colourful old houses. It is a perfect town in which to stroll and visit some of the many galleries and shops. A tour and tasting awaits us at the Marzipan Museum, featuring sculptures made of Marzipan! Lunch is included in Visegrad, a town with a 13th century fortified fortress that has housed many notorious visitors (and according to one legend, even Dracula was imprisoned in its tower!)

Day 13: Budapest. At leisure. At our thermal spa hotel you have free access to most of its facilities including the thermal baths, steam rooms, and some reasonably-priced treatments. You may also want to attend one of the many musical events the city is famous for. This evening we enjoy our romantic Farewell Dinner Cruise along the majestic Danube illuminated by breathtaking architectural masterpieces.

Day 14: Home. We fly home, via Paris.

Croatia and Slovenia From Dubrovnik to Venice

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, and 3 lunches (lunches and several dinners at local restaurants)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

Depart April 23 - \$6597 Depart May 7 - \$6797

- Depart May 7 90757
- Single supplement \$1190
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax add \$690
- Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton add \$990

We begin this delightful tour with 3 nights in the Jewel of the Adriatic - Dubrovnik - a UNESCO World Heritage Site and certainly one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Then we will discover the medieval architecture, tranquil lakes, quaint villages and local charm as we visit some of Croatia's other port towns including Zadar, Trogir and Split. In historic Mostar (in Bosnia Herzegovina) we'll absorb the Turkish atmosphere and see the famous old bridge. We'll explore Plitvice National Park - a lush valley where waterfalls cascade down sheer cliffs connecting pristine lakes, and then the vibrant capital city of Zagreb - the country's economic, intellectual and cultural centre.

We then travel into Slovenia - a country of stunning natural beauty with snow-capped peaks, turquoise-green rivers and a Venetian style coastline. Our touring here will include Ljubljana - winner of the European Green Capital award, the impressive caves of Postojna, the emeraldgreen resort town of Lake Bled and many scenic drives.

We finish with 2 nights in the romantic city of Venice. With its marvellous canals, beautiful architecture and Byzantine atmosphere, Venice never fails to enchant its visitors.

15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024 APRIL 23 - MAY 7

MAY 7 - 21

Tour Highlights:

- The beautiful old port city of Dubrovnik
- Region of Konavle and mountain village of Gruda
- The defensive walls of Ston
- Mostar's famous historic bridge
- Seaside town of Split
- Trogir a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Plitvice National Park
- Funicular ride to Zagreb's Upper Town
- Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital city
- Boat ride on Lake Bled
- Postojna's incredible Karst cave system
- The island city of Venice
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Dubrovnik, via Munich.

Day 2: Dubrovnik. We arrive in Dubrovnik and transfer to our hotel for a 3-night stay. The rest of the day is free.

Day 3: Dubrovnik and Konavle. On our city tour of Dubrovnik we'll see the city walls and fortifications, the Rector's Palace, famous unique churches, public buildings that blend seamlessly with green-shuttered stone houses, and, in the Franciscan Monastery, Europe's oldest apothecary. Later we travel by coach to the region of Konavle with a stop at the little mountain village of Gruda to see the mills and enjoy a tasting of local ham, cheese and grappa. This evening is our Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4: Dubrovnik. At leisure to return to the old city or take a boat ride along the coast. An optional tour will be offered to Montenegro.

Day 5: Day trip to Ston / Mostar. We travel to Mostar, where we will spend one night, enroute visiting the village of Ston with its impressive series of defensive walls which once surrounded and protected the city. Upon arrival in Mostar a guided tour of the city will show us the beautiful old town, the famous old bridge and the Turkish section, including a visit of a Turkish home and the Mosque.

Day 6: Split. We head back to the coast and enjoy a scenic drive to the energetic town of Split, the second-largest city in Croatia with the perfect balance of tradition and modernity. We will spend 2 nights here.

Day 7: Day trip to Split. Our tour of Split features the historic inner city - the biggest in Dalmatia, built around a Roman Palace. We see the remnants of Split's Roman heritage, its Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple and the Peristyle. We'll also visit the caves of the Diocletian's Palace. The afternoon is at leisure to explore this popular seaside town's dozens of cafes, restaurants and shops.

Day 8: Trogir / Zadar. We visit the UNESCO Heritage Site of Trogir Island - a Croatian artistic centre. Scholars from all over the world gather to study and paint here, and you will see why. We continue to Zadar, and on our tour here

we will see the harbour, the historical centre, and the pre-Romanic church of Saint Donat. We overnight in Zadar.

Day 9: Plitvice Lakes / Zagreb. We depart for Plitvice Lakes National Park, a lush valley with 16 terraced lakes strung together by countless cascading waterfalls and miles of pleasant paths and wooden bridges. Our visit here will include a boat ride on the still waters of Kozjak Lake and an electric train around the park. Lunch will be included at the park today. At the end of our park visit, we continue to Zagreb, Croatia's capital, for a 2-night stay.

Day 10: Zagreb. Our city tour will include a funicular ride to the Upper Town where a complex of churches, palaces, museums, government buildings and galleries has retained much of its old-world charm.

Day 11: Ljubljana (Slovenia). We continue to Slovenia's medieval capital, Ljubljana, for a 2-night stay. Our city tour will include a funicular ride to Ljubljana castle for a panoramic view of the old town and red-roofed houses. The afternoon is at leisure to stroll the old town with its small shops, outdoor cafes and charming restaurants.

Day 12: Lake Bled / Ljubljana. Today's tour at emerald green Lake Bled includes a visit of Bled Castle, which stands on a cliff above the lake with spectacular views, and a "pletna" boat ride to the island where you can ring the bell at St. Mary's Church for good luck.

Day 13: Postojna Caves / Jesolo. We travel to Postojna to visit the incredible Karst cave system. A mini-train takes us through this fantastic underground world of beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. We continue toward Venice and our hotel in the nearby resort town of Jesolo for a 2-night stay.

Day 14: Day trip to Venice. A boat ride will take us to the island of Venice for a guided tour of this magical city. We will see St. Mark's Square, the Bridge of Sighs, the Doge's Palace and more. In the afternoon we will enjoy some time at leisure to shop, explore and of course take photos before we return to Jesolo on the mainland. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Return. We fly home to Canada, via Munich.

Grand Tour of Portugal

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full buffet breakfast daily, 11 dinners and 2 lunches (including a special farm lunch). Wine and coffee served with all dinners and lunches.
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$6197
- ·····
- Single Supplement \$1390
- Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary or Edmonton - add \$390
- Vancouver add \$690

Once a powerful seafaring kingdom that dominated merchant routes worldwide, Portugal today is a relaxed country bountiful in natural beauty, historic monuments, and a distinct culture.

Add to this the nation's love of gastronomy and wine, and the legendary Portuguese hospitality, and you will see its appeal as holiday destination.

Tour Highlights:

- The lively historic capital city of Lisbon.
- The Algarve Portugal's finest beaches and coastline, including the capital city of Faro.
- Moorish fishing village of Olhão and the lively market.
- The historic seaside port of Lagos.
- The golden-stoned university town of Evora, with its Roman temple, Moorish alleys, and medieval walls.
- Alentejo's expansive rural landscape and wine region.
- Guimarães said to be where "Portugal was born" with a beautiful historic centre, castle and palace.

<u>15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> MAY 2 - 16 MAY 16 - 30

- The picturesque "white" hilltop town of Monsaraz.
- Serra da Estrela Mountains Portugal's highest range, dotted with remote villages.
- Romantic Oporto Portugal's 2nd largest city.
- The stunning Douro River Valley with steeply terraced vineyards for producing Portugal's famous Port wine.
- Aveiro the "Portugese Venice" with its charming canals and colourful boats.
- Coimbra one of Portugal's oldest cities.
- Sintra a picturesque hilltop retreat surrounded by opulent palaces and country estates.

*Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. Day 1: Departure. We depart for Lisbon, non-stop from Toronto.

Day 2: Lisbon. We arrive in Lisbon and before transferring to our hotel we will have a short orientation tour of this lively capital city. The afternoon is free until our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Day trip to Sintra / Cabo Da Roca / Cascais / Lisbon. We begin with a visit of the National Palace of Queluz - a wonderful example of Rococo architecture surrounded by beautiful gardens. We continue to Sintra for some leisure time to discover the village before continuing with a scenic drive along Cabo da Roca, passing popular Guincho Beach and Boca do Inferno ("Hell's Mouth") - a chasm in the seaside cliffs near the fishing port of Cascais.

Day 4: Obidos / Coimbra. We depart for the walled city of Obidos with its whitewashed houses and flower displays. After a walking tour there we continue to Coimbra - once the medieval capital of Portugal and site of the country's finest university for the past 500 years. We'll visit the University and possibly the famous library (subject to availability). On our walking tour of the old town we'll see the Cathedral and the famous Arch of Almedina. Overnight in Coimbra.

Day 5: Aveiro / Oporto. To start the day we enjoy a special visit to the Underground Museum, situated in traditional wine cellars, which features private collections of diverse artefacts of historic, scientific, and artistic importance. After lunch at a local winery, we proceed to Aveiro - known as the "Portuguese Venice" due to its colourful gondola-shaped boats, natural lagoons, elegant 19th Century architecture and traditional cobblestone passageways. We will visit the Maritime Museum of Ilhavo with the famous cod fish aquarium, and taste the heavenly "Ovos Moles" - the local sweet delicacy. We then continue to the Oporto region for a 3-night stay.

Day 6: Oporto. Oporto is the country's second-largest city, dramatically situated at the mouth of the Rio Douro, rich in medieval relics, soaring bell towers, extravagant baroque churches and stately beaux-arts buildings all next to one another. Our city tour will include São Francisco Church, the Stock Exchange Palace, and a stroll through the historic Ribeira neighbourhood - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We finish with a scenic cruise along the river to enjoy the city from a different vantage point.

Day 7: Day trip to Guimarães / Penafiel. Today we visit Guimarães, to discover the old town and view the impressive castle. We then visit a vineyard, famous for the "Vinho Verde" (green wine) of the region, where we'll see the production process and enjoy a taste, before returning to our hotel in Porto. **Day 8: Douro Valley / Viseu.** A scenic day as we travel through the beautiful Douro Valley where Portugal's famous port wine is produced. We'll see quiet towns and villages, vineyards and clifftop castles, and learn about port wine production as we visit a regional farm. We will also visit the magnificent gardens at the Palacio de Mateus - depicted on the label of the famous Mateus wine bottles. Then we continue to the historic town of Viseu set high on a mountain plateau, for our overnight.

Day 9: Serra da Estrela Mountains / Castelo De Vide / Evora. As we cross the Tagus River valley we enjoy spectacular views of the Serra da Estrela Mountains, and stop at the Castelo de Vide to wander the narrow alleys and the town's Jewish quarter. We then continue to Evora in the heart of the Alentejo region for a 2-night stay.

Day 10: Day trip to Monsaraz. Evora is one of Portugal's most beautifully-preserved medieval towns. During our walking tour we'll see the 14th century walls, winding lanes, charming squares, the elaborate Cathedral, Roman temple, and the Ossuary Chapel. After a wine tasting at a traditional wine cellar we continue to the fairy-tale walled village of Monsaraz which has preserved its distinctive centuries-old characteristics. After a walk back in time through the narrow streets, we return to Evora.

Day 11: Beja / Lagos / Ponta da Peidade / Albufeira. We depart for Beja in the Alentejo region for some time to discover the town before continuing to Ponta da Piedade, known for its rugged sandstone cliffs and rock pinnacles. We will also visit the resort town of Lagos before we proceed to the resort town of Albufeira for a 2-night stay.

Day 12: Day trip to Olhão / Faro. Today we visit the typical Moorish fishing village of Olhão where we will see the lively fruit and vegetable market, then on to Faro - Algarve's capital, where we will visit the old walled town and the Cathedral.

Day 13: Setubal / Arrabida / Lisbon. We first stop at the important fisherman's port of Setubal, before proceeding through the picturesque Arrabida Mountains to Lisbon, for a 2-night stay.

Day 14: Lisbon. During our city tour we'll take in the historic district of Alfama, the Belém district with its magnificent monuments, Jeronimos Monastery, the Monument of the Discoveries, and the Belém Tower. After a visit to the Monastery we will enjoy a tasting of the famous Belém custard tart. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Return. We fly back to Canada, non-stop to Toronto.

orthern Portugal and Madeira

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Deluxe and First Class hotels
- Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily (wine and beer with all dinners),
 5 lunches while in Madeira
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages all day while in Madeira
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$6997
- Single Supplement \$1790
- Montreal add \$190
- Ottawa, Halifax or Winnipeg add \$390
- Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver add \$590

Lisbon • Fatima • Oporto Deluxe All-Inclusive resort in Madeira

Portugal - cobblestone villages, captivating cities, a rich and unique culture, fascinating history, idyllic scenery and great food are just the beginning. On this tour we will see the lively capital city of Lisbon, explore the authentic cities in the north and enjoy a week at a Deluxe oceanfront resort on the magical island of Madeira - a lush oasis with a mild climate, dramatic seascapes and magnificent flowers that flourish only here.

We begin with an overnight in the bustling city of Lisbon, then venture north to the ancient medieval walled city of Obidos, and Nazare - a picturesque seaside village on the Atlantic coast. Next is a visit to Aveiro, dubbed the Venice of Portugal with its picturesque canals lined with moliceiros originally used to harvest seaweed, now used for canal cruising.

Then we proceed to what many consider the highlight of northern Portugal - the picturesque city of Oporto, built into granite cliffs overlooking the beautiful river Douro. The city is a charming blend of architectural gems from several historic periods, including Roman, Gothic, Baroque, Neo-classic and Renaissance eras. There are narrow medieval alleyways and squares, extravagant baroque churches and wide boulevards lined with stately edifices.

In Coimbra we will see the ancient university perched high above the Mondego River before continuing to Batalha where

14 DAYS • MAY 20 - JUNE 2

we will visit the Batalha Monastery - one of Europe's greatest Gothic masterpieces and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will also overnight in Fatima - famous for the 1917 reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

From Northern Portugal we will fly to the breathtaking island of Madeira for a delightful 6-night stay at a Deluxe oceanfront resort with touring included. We end our tour in Lisbon with a city tour and an afternoon at leisure to explore this lively and historic capital city.

Tour Highlights:

- Walled city of Obidos / colourful fishing village of Nazare
- Tour of Oporto and a scenic boat ride on the Rio Douro
- Batalha Monastery UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Fatima a centre of Christian pilgrimage
- Lush Botanical Quinto Gardens do Lago
- 2 full-day tours of the enchanting island of Madeira
- The historic and lively city of Lisbon
- * Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Northern Portugal & Madeira

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Lisbon - a direct, non-stop flight from Toronto.

Day 2: Lisbon. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. Our Welcome Dinner is this evening.

Day 3: Lisbon. Our tour of the Portuguese capital will take in the Old Quarter, where we'll visit Jeronimos Monastery, and see the Belem Tower, and the monument of Henry the Navigator. The afternoon is free to explore on your own or visit one of the many museums and galleries.

Day 4: Obidos / Nazare / Batalha / Fatima. We drive along the scenic landscapes of windmills and fruit trees to the enchanting walled city of Obidos, which has some of the most well-preserved medieval architecture in Portugal. We will see the castle and main square, and then continue to the colourful fishing village of Nazare, and to Batalha to visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Victoria - one of the best examples of original gothic architecture in Portugal. We continue to Fatima - a centre of Christian pilgrimage, famous for the shrine called the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Day 5: Coimbra / Aveiro / Oporto. We depart for Coimbra, where we visit one of the world's oldest universities, including its grand baroque library (subject to availability), as well as the historic and architecturally magnificent Santa Clara Monastery, which offers an amazing view over Coimbra and its surroundings. Then we continue to Aveiro, known as the "Portuguese Venice", where we see the graceful "moliceiros" boats with their distinctively decorated prows, and have a chance to taste the local sweets "ovos moles". Then we proceed to Oporto - one of the oldest European cities, for a 2-night stay.

Day 6: Oporto. On our city tour of Oporto we will visit the San Francisco Church and see the Palacio da Bolsa with its splendid Arabian Hall. We will also enjoy a scenic boat trip on the beautiful Rio Douro. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 7: Madeira. We transfer to the airport for our flight to the magical garden island of Madeira, for a 6-night stay at our Deluxe oceanfront resort. After arrival we will have a

welcome orientation of Funchal including the Cathedral, a visit of the beautiful botanical gardens with their unique island species, and a tasting of the famous Madeira Wine.

Day 8: Eastern Island Tour. Today's full day tour takes us first to the Point of Sao Lourenco, where you can see both sides of the island at once. We continue to Porto de la Cruz and Guindaste to enjoy the magnificent scenic views. Then we proceed to visit the village of Santana, famous for its small houses with thatched roofs set amongst the Cathedral flowers, vines and apple orchards. Later we'll a trout farm before continuing to Mount Poiso and the village of Santo da Serra, 1400m above sea level.

Days 9 & 10: Madeira. At leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel and explore the charming town of Funchal. On the 2nd evening we will enjoy a folklore dinner with local specialties and wine.

Day 11: Western Island Tour. Today's tour takes us first to Estreito de Camara de Lobos to see its wonderful vineyards. We stop at the cliffs of Cabo Girao, the third highest in the world, for an unbeatable view of Funchal, and then continue to Ribeira Brava to see the church, and Madalena do Mar to visit a banana plantation. We descend the plateau of the island to Paul da Serra - a UNESCO protected nature park, before visiting Porto Moniz and its famous natural pools hollowed out of lava. On our return to Funchal we pass the beautiful Serra de Agua Valley and Laurissilva Forest.

Day 12: Madeira. At leisure for last minute souvenir shopping, strolling along the sea or on the streets of Funchal, or enjoying the facilities of our resort hotel. Your Tour Manager will be on hand for suggestions and possible optional tours.

Day 13: Lisbon. We enjoy a final free morning in Madeira before we fly back to Lisbon and transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Home. We fly direct from Lisbon to Toronto.

Magical Islands of Greece

• Athens • Mykonos • Crete • Santorini

The charm of the Greek Islands has drawn visitors for centuries. On this tour we start in the mainland capital of Greece, Athens, with its historical treasures, vibrant culture and celebrated monuments (from Athens we also enjoy a day cruise and an excursion to classical Delphi). Then we visit three of the most popular islands in Greece.

Mykonos is a delightful port with winding cobblestoned streets, white-washed houses, picturesque churches and sandy beaches. Its famous windmills look glorious against the backdrop of the blue Aegean Sea. There's a lovely selection of shops and cafes are on the waterfront, so why not sit a while in a taverna, sip the local Ouzo and watch the sunset ... heaven!

Santorini is known for its high cliffs, dramatic black volcanic sand beaches and spectacular landscapes formed by centuries of volcanic activity. The main town of Fira sits atop a cliff edge which plunges almost 900 ft. to the sea. The island's cafes and shops line the streets of the town, and the white houses with distinctive blue doors spread down to the long, black beaches. From the west end of town there are stunning views of the harbour, coastline

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Deluxe and First Class hotels
- Gererous Continental breakfast and dinner daily
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$8597
- Single Supplement \$2290
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$290
- Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$490
- Vancouver add \$690

<u>16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 21 - MAY 6 MAY 5 - 20

and the neighboring islands. One of the great pleasures is to wander the cobblestone streets, browse through the craft shops and arrive at the western edge of town to watch the sun bathe the harbour and sea in a magenta glow. Mules are used as transport to and from the harbour.

Crete is the largest Greek island, and its attractions are many - mosques, monasteries, gorges, grottoes, beaches and wonderful mountain scenery. The walled capital city of Heraklion is just 3 miles from the restored ruins of the 5,000 year old Minoan Palace of Knossos, believed to be the site of the mythical labyrinth of King Minos. Heraklion also has one of the finest archaeological museums in Greece. There are coastal fishing communities and rustic farming settlements in the hills. This diversity makes for an interesting and lively stay.

* Those joining any of our European tours must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. **Day 1: Departure.** We depart for Athens, direct from Toronto.

Day 2: Athens. Upon arrival in Athens we transfer to our hotel for a 4-night stay. Our hotel is located in the centre of Athens, a short distance from The Plaka - the oldest and most colourful section of Athens with churches, shops, cafes and ruins of ancient temples. It is a safe and delightful area to explore.

Day 3: Athens. On our city tour of Athens we see wonders known around the world - Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of Zeus, the Stadium, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the former Royal Palace and the government buildings. The highlight will be the Acropolis and Parthenon. Lunch will be at a typical taverna.

Day 4: Day trip to Delphi. Our full day tour to Delphi begins with a drive into the mountains for a visit to Arahova, known for its colourful rugs and carpets. We then proceed to Delphi, once known as the centre of the world. Here we visit the temple of the Greek God Apollo, a beautiful site which evokes the classical past of this area. Those who wish may climb to the top of the theatre for incredible views of the countryside.

Day 5: Day Cruise. We cruise to the Saronic Islands via Aegina, a busy port in antiquity and today a tranquil resort. We continue on to Paros where we will enjoy a stroll by its enchanting little harbour, and then the quaint, colourful harbour of Hydra. Lunch is included. We return to Athens for our overnight.

Day 6: Crete. We fly to Crete and transfer to our hotel for our 3-night stay. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Day 7: Crete. Today's excursion will include a visit to the Palace of Knossos - the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete that has been named Europe's oldest city at various points in history. We then visit the town of Heraklion and the Archaeological Museum, showcasing the most notable and complete collection of artifacts of the Minoan civilization of Crete.

Day 8: Crete. Today we will enjoy a full day tour of the countryside which will take us past vineyards and olive groves to Gortys - the old Greek and Roman town with ruins of Saint Titus Church. Then on to Phaistos for a visit

of the Minoan Palace and for the beautiful view over the Messara Plain and Ida Mountain.

Day 9: Santorini. We ferry over to the dramatic island of Santorini and transfer to our hotel, for our 3-night stay.

Day 10: Santorini. Our full-day tour begins at Emporio Village, with its labyrinthine streets surrounding a medieval fortress. Then we visit Akrotiri, or the "Lost Atlantis", a pre-historic town buried by a volcanic eruption and preserved by volcanic ash. There will be free time for lunch at Perissa Beach - Santorini's most popular beach, before we proceed to the Santorini Winery, one of Europe's oldest vineyards, to taste their distinctive wines. We then drive to the top of Santorini's highest peak to admire the striking panoramic view of the island. We'll finish the day at the village of Oia - the most photographed place in Greece, to enjoy its legendary sunset.

Day 11: Santorini. At leisure to explore the town at your own pace. See the Orthodox Cathedral, now a Byzantine museum, and marvel at the dazzling white houses topped with blue domes.

Day 12: Mykonos. We ferry to Mykonos for a 3-night stay. Enjoy the facilities of our resort hotel and beach, stroll into the quaint village, or perhaps take the local bus to explore the small churches, chapels, glittering white houses, arcades and narrow streets.

Day 13: Mykonos. This morning we will have an orientation tour of Mykonos, including the beautiful esplanade lined with cafes and outdoor terraces overlooking the busy harbour.

Day 14: Mykonos. Our tour today takes us to the island of Delos - birthplace of the legendary Gods Apollo and Artemis. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delos is one of the most important mythological, historical, and archaeological sites in Greece.

Day 15: Athens. We fly to Athens for some time at leisure to further explore the Plaka, revisit one or more of the many attractions, or do some last-minute shopping. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner, with a folklore show.

Day 16: Home. We transfer to the airport for our flight home, direct to Toronto.

Glorious Greece

with a Greek Island Cruise

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels (moderate hotels while on the coach tour)
- First Class cruise, including unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily, plus 3 lunches during the cruise
- 3 shore excursions during the cruise
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto April 26 - \$8797

May 10 - \$8497

- Single Supplement \$1790
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Winnipeg add \$290
- Halifax add \$490
- Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton add \$690

4 night cruise including 3 shore excursions Athens • Classical Coach Tour • 3 nights Mykonos

Home of mythological gods and archaeological delights, Greece has delighted visitors for centuries. It may be the history, mild climate, delicious cuisine and magnificent scenery that attracts you, but it's the friendly people who will make you want to return.

We begin and end in Athens, known for its fascinating museums and archaeological sites. Our touring will include the Acropolis and Parthenon, and there will also be time at leisure to enjoy the many museums, cafes and shopping in the colourful "Plaka" neighbourhood.

After our initial stay in Athens we will embark on a 4-day "Classical Coach Tour" taking in the major historic sites of Delphi, Kalambaka, Nafplion, Mycenae and Meteora. Next, we enjoy three nights on the island of Mykonos, considered one of the most beautiful and popular islands in Greece, with its trademark windmills, glittering white houses, cobblestoned streets and lively atmosphere.

A highlight of our tour will be our 4-night Greek Island cruise aboard one of the ships in the *Celestyal Cruises* fleet. These are smaller and less formal ships, ideal for **101** Senior Discovery Tours

<u>15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 26 - MAY 10 MAY 10 - 24

cruising around the islands - yet more than well equipped for your comfort. Celestyal ships have welcoming public rooms, bars and lounges, casino, movie theatre, library, boutiques and plenty of deck space. The entertainment program includes shows, special events and music and dancing nightly. Dining on board is a treat, as the team of expert chefs are eager to please with their wide array of international specialties. Unlimited alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages from a range of selected drinks are included and available all day. For this cruise we have all outside cabins that are bright and comfortable, with climate control, music channel, phone and bathroom (shower only). A special feature of our program is that we have included shore excursions on 3 of the most interesting and beautiful islands.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily. **Day 1: Departure.** We depart for Athens, direct from Toronto.

Day 2: Athens. We arrive in Athens and transfer to our hotel for a 2-night stay. The rest of the day is free until our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Athens. On our city tour we will see Hadrian's Arch, the Stadium, Temple of Zeus and the former Royal Palace. The highlight will be the Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, and the incredible Parthenon. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore the Plaka or revisit one of the many attractions.

Day 4: Coach tour - Meteora / Kalambaka. Our Classical Coach Tour begins with the striking scenery of Meteora - its ageless monasteries perched atop massive rocks that appear to be suspended in mid-air. We will see exquisite Byzantine art before continuing to Kalambaka, located at the foot of an amazing rock complex.

Day 5: Coach tour - Delphi. We proceed through the mountains to Delphi, once known as the "centre of the world" and home to The Oracle - an area rich in archaeological treasures and mythology. We will see the Treasure of Athenians, site of The Oracle, the Theatre and the Stadium.

Day 6: Coach tour - Olympia. Today we enjoy the scenic drive along the picturesque coastline of Corinth Bay, with views of the Peloponnese Mountains in the distance. After a photo stop at Rio-Antirrio Bridge we continue to Olympia where we visit the Temple of Zeus and Hera, the Stadium, the museum featuring Hermes of Praxiteles and the site of the first Olympic Games held in 776 BC.

Day 7: Coach tour - Mycenae / Nafplion / Epidaurus /

Athens. We travel to Mycenae, and visit the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean Walls and the Royal Tombs. Then we continue to the seaside town of Nafplion for a brief visit before proceeding to Epidaurus to see the ancient theatre famous for its astonishing acoustics. Later we return to Athens for one night.

Day 8: Mykonos. We take the ferry to Mykonos for our 3-night stay. Afternoon at leisure.

Days 9 and 10: Mykonos. Two free days to enjoy our resort hotel, stroll along the beach or explore the village's small churches and shops along the cobblestone streets. The island's landmark windmills are everywhere and the esplanade along the small harbour is lined with quaint cafes and outdoor patios.

Day 11: Mykonos / Cruising. This afternoon we will enjoy a tour of Mykonos, before embarking on our 4-day cruise.

Day 12: Cruising - Kusadasi / Patmos. We cruise to the resort town of Kusadasi (Turkey), on the Turkish Riviera. Our included excursion will be to the incredible white marble ruins at Ephesus, once the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Here the Temple of Diana was counted among the Seven Wonders of the World, and St. Paul wrote his most profound epistles here. A white marble avenue (the Arcadian Way) stretches through the city, with ruins of once great buildings such as the Library of Celsius and the Temple of Hadrian. The ancient public latrines always provide some humour! We then sail to the "Holy Island" of Patmos - once an important Christian pilgrimage site. You may join an optional excursion or explore on your own.

Day 13: Cruising - Rhodes. Our included excursion begins with a walking tour of the old walled city of Lindos, on the island of Rhodes, with its medieval buildings, winding alleys, towers, turrets and the impressive Grand Master's Palace. A highlight is the Street of the Knights - residences of the Knights of Rhodes.

Day 14: Cruising - Crete / Santorini. We begin the day on Crete - the largest Greek island and home of the 4,000 year-old Minoan Empire. On our included excursion we discover the proud Venetian heritage of Heraklion - the Koules Fortress (overlooking the harbour), the Venetian Loggia (the 17th century social centre), the harmonious Morozini Fountain and the 10th century Church of St. Titus. We then visit the wonderful open-air museum of the Palace of Knossos, considered Europe's oldest city, and discover the incredible world of the legendary Minoan civilization. We then cruise to Santorini, noted for its dramatic volcanic landscapes with black cliffs surrounding a fantastic cauldron-shape bay, and beautiful white houses with blue domes. The island is easy to explore on foot, or take an optional excursion to picturesque Oia Village, enroute taking in the breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea. There will be time to explore the village with its cobblestone streets and blue shuttered white-washed houses.

Day 15: Return to Canada. We disembark our ship and transfer to Athens airport for our direct flight to Toronto.

Highlights of Turkey

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Turkish Airways
- First Class hotels
- Continental buffet breakfast & dinner daily
- Visa arrangements and fees
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7797
- Single Supplement \$1290
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax add \$690
- Vancouver, Winnipeg , Calgary, or Edmonton add \$990

With unique historical and archaeological sites, breathtaking natural beauty, religious and cultural diversity, and a welcoming tradition of hospitality, Turkey is one of world's most fascinating destinations.

This comprehensive tour begins in Istanbul where we will see the domed mosques, minarets, and palaces, before journeying to the rock churches of Cappadocia and the incredible Goreme Valley.

We then proceed to experience the thermal springs and amazing white cliff waterfalls of Pamukkale, and from there, travel to the picturesque seaside resort of Kusadasi for the final 4 nights of the tour. Kusadasi will be our base for visiting what is perhaps the main highlight of the tour - Ephesus, the world's best-preserved ancient city, as well as other amazing historical sites.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

16 DAYS • APRIL 24 - MAY 9

Tour Highlights:

- Exotic Istanbul and its Grand Bazaar
- Cruise along the impressive Bosphorus Straits
- Mystical Whirling Dervish performance
- The Cappadocia region and rock churches
- Konya home of the Whirling Dervishes
- Pamukkale with its cascades of white travertine
- The seaside resort of Kusadasi
- Ephesus the world's grandest and best-preserved ancient city
- Miletus and Didyma, and the huge amphitheatre
- Temple of Apollo

Itinerary for Highlights of Turkey

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Istanbul, direct from Toronto.

Day 2: Istanbul. We arrive in Istanbul and transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Istanbul. Our full day tour starts at the magnificent Byzantine church of St. Sophia, one of the first and largest architectural works of art in the world; then on to the beautiful Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace - a former imperial residence from where the great Ottoman sultans once ruled. We finish with a visit to the Grand Bazaar.

Day 4: Istanbul / Bosphorous Cruise / Whirling Dervish.

This morning we cruise the unforgettable Bosphorus, and sail past palaces, churches, villages, old wooden houses, mansions, and modern villas. In the afternoon we visit the Asian side of Istanbul via the two bridges that link the east to the west. This evening we enjoy a "Whirling Dervish" performance, which is both a form of entertainment and a spiritual journey.

Day 5: Istanbul. A day at leisure to explore this amazing city on your own. You may want to revisit the Grand Bazaar - one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops selling everything under the sun. Optional tours will be offered.

Day 6: Cappadocia. We take a short flight to the unique Cappadocia region. Upon arrival we'll transfer to our hotel, and spend the rest of the day enjoying the serene beauty of this place. The landscape here is a honeycomb of manmade caves, which serve as places to live, work, and worship.

Day 7: Gerome Valley. Today we visit the Goreme Valley, also known as the Petrified Valley, where years of wind and rain have eroded the volcanic soil into a spectacular, bizarre landscape of rock cones, capped pinnacles, and deep ravines. This area is also famous for its rock churches.

Day 8: Cappadocia. Our tour of this fascinating region features ancient excavated towns, troglodyte villages, and breathtaking scenery. This area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has changed little over time - with locals travelling between villages in horse-drawn carts.

Day 9: Konya. We proceed to Konya, one of Turkey's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Scenically situated on a high plateau, it has long been a centre of the Muslim faith, and

the home of the Whirling Dervishes who date back to the 11th century. We will visit the mausoleum of Mevlana, the founder of the sect.

Day 10: Pamukkale. The drive from Konya to Pamukkale is a picturesque journey through varied unique landscapes. As we approach Pamukkale, it first appears as an enormous, chalky white cliff, and then takes on the appearance of a cotton castle. The thermal spring here has attracted visitors for over 2000 years, so upon arrival we can spend time at the mineral pools for those who wish to try the healthy warm waters.

Day 11: Pamukkale / Hierapolis. Today we visit the holy city of Hierapolis - a spa and religious centre since Roman times. There will also be more time to enjoy the thermal pools of Pamukkale.

Day 12: Temple of Aphrodite / Kusadasi. We travel across a highland plateau rich in farms to Aphrodisas, one of the most important artistic sites, where we will see the beautiful Temple of Aphrodite - goddess of love. Later we arrive at the picturesque seaside resort of Kusadasi, for the remaining 4 nights of our tour.

Day 13: Ephesus. This morning we visit Ephesus, once the capital of the Roman's province of Asia. Here, the Temple of Artemis was counted among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and it is the site in which St. Paul wrote his most profound epistles. A white marble avenue known as the Arcadian Way stretches through the city with ruins of great buildings such as the Library of Celsius, the Temple of Hadrian, and the public latrines! Finally we see the house of the Virgin Mary where it is believed she spent her last years.

Day 14: Kusadasi. A day of leisure to enjoy this seaside resort town. The town centre has an interesting waterfront with ample shopping, colourful bazaars, and interesting teahouses.

Day 15: Miletus and Didyma. We take an excursion to Miletus and Didyma, to see the beautiful Great Theatre - a remarkably intact 25,000 seat amphitheatre, as well as the Roman baths and gymnasium. We continue to the Temple of Apollo - one of antiquity's most sacred places. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Home. We fly back to Istanbul, then on to Canada, on our direct flight to Toronto.

Walking the Lakes District and Yorkshire Dales plus Liverpool

This is the ideal walking tour for those seeking a more leisurely pace while immersing themselves in the beauty of the Lakes District and Yorkshire Dales.

This walking tour offers a choice of up to 3 daily walks of varying difficulty levels, including gentle walks of only 5 - 6 kms. We will discover magnificent trails and scenery, wildlife, and captivating historical attractions.

We begin with a 7-night stay in Derwentwater, near Keswick. Nestled amidst picturesque valleys and majestic crags, Derwentwater is often referred to as the "Queen of the Lakes", with some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Lakes District. This idyllic location provides easy access to a variety of landmarks, including the fells (hills) of Cat Bells, Walla Craig and Latrigg. To the south, lies the entrance to the stunning Borrowdale Valley.

Our next 3 nights are in the beautiful Southern Yorkshire Dales, a region of captivating beauty, with rolling hills, green valleys, and charming villages. From the 17th century town of Airton to the Ingleborough Cave, this landscape is rich in beauty and immersed in history.

We end with 2 nights in the vibrant city of Liverpool, where our city tour will highlight the life of the Beatles.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Transat
- First Class country house hotels, and a First Class hotel in Liverpool
- Full English breakfast & dinner daily. 9 picnic lunches
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto ... \$6997
- Single Supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

14 DAYS • JUNE 13 - 26

Tour Highlights:

- Explore at a very gentle pace, allowing plenty of time to admire your surroundings.
- Let an experienced walking leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life.
- Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Lakes District and visit charming Lakeland villages.
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners, and learn about the history of the Lakes.
- Marvel at some of the most impressive peaks in England.
- Stroll through the varied landscapes of the Southern Yorkshire Dales.
- Admire green valleys and waterfalls on riverside strolls.
- City tour of Liverpool, highlighting Beatles landmarks
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete a minimum of 6 km of walking.

Walks described below are the easier option. Medium and harder walks will be offered daily as well.

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Manchester.

Day 2: Derwentwater. Upon arrival, we transfer to Derwentwater for our 7-night stay. Our hotel is situated near the charming town of Keswick. We'll be in awe of the views of the breathtaking countryside and the serene lake reflecting the surrounding landscape. Upon arrival, indulge in a delightful cream tea to set the tone for your stay.

Day 3: Latrigg to Keswick (Walk 5.5 km with ascent of

120m). We begin with a gentle ascent from a vantage point to Latrigg's summit, overlooking the town of Keswick and the scenic view down the valley of Borrowdale. Following this, we'll embark on a leisurely descent through the ancient trees of Brundholme Woods to Keswick. Enjoy the stunning vistas over Derwentwater and explore the walker-friendly pubs, tearooms, and shops in Keswick.

Day 4: Derwentwater Shore (Walk 6 km with ascent of

160m). We embark along the woodland track, and reach the shores of Derwent Bay, known as the "Queen of the Lakes" due to its surrounding fells. After a pause to admire the spectacular scenery we'll continue along the shoreline. On the return, you may wish to view the lovely walled garden on Lingholm estate before taking in the panoramic views of the majestic Skiddaw Mountain and surrounding islands.

Day 5: Derwentwater at Leisure. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the region at your own pace. Explore nearby attractions, take a self-guided walk, or simply unwind and take in the surroundings.

Day 6: Castlerigg Stone Circle (Walk 6.5 km with ascent of 175m). A gentle ascent leads us to the historic Castlerigg Stone Circle, dating back to 3000 BC. Take some time to enjoy its dramatic setting. Then we'll wind through fields and woodlands enroute to Keswick, where we can discover this town's charm at the end of our walk.

Day 7: Braithwaite via Hodgson's How (Walk 6 km with ascent of 80m). Today we enjoy a lovely valley walk surrounded by magnificent Lakeland fells. Starting from Derwent Bank, our route offers stunning mountain views. We walk around the raised ground of Hodgson's How, with the mighty Skiddaw lying ahead. We continue into the quaint village of Braithwaite, before following the attractive Newlands Beck and quiet minor roads, back to our hotel. **Day 8: Aira Force to Glenridding (Walk 5 km with ascent of 80m).** Experience the spectacular Aira Force waterfall, before following the Ullswater Way footpath to Glenridding. Here, we board the steamer for an unforgettable lake cruise to Pooley Bridge, enjoying scenic lake and mountain views, and a relaxing drink by Pooley Bridge.

Day 9: Southern Yorkshire Dales. We say farewell to Derwentwater and transfer to our hotel in the Southern Yorkshire Dales, for a 3-night stay. Surrounded by moors, valleys, hills, and villages, this setting is sure to captivate you. Upon arrival, enjoy a delicious cream tea.

Day 10: Airton and The Pennine Way (Walk 6.5 km with ascent of 80m). Follow fields and lanes to Airton where we explore this 17th-century village, before walking the old mill leatt. We return via the Pennine Way and immerse ourselves in the breathtaking scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. Today, we'll even have an opportunity to search for dipper birds along the river Aire.

Day 11: Clapham Beck and Ingleborough Cave (Walk 6 km with ascent of 200m). We walk from the traditional Dales village of Clapham, passing through the Ingleborough Estate, to Ingleborough Cave. After crossing the beck, we return to the village, for a chance to enjoy coffee and cake. We'll stop for an optional tour of Ingleborough Cave with its impressive stalactites and stalagmites, and enjoy the surrounding picturesque scenery.

Day 12: Liverpool. We transfer to Liverpool for our final 2-night stay. Explore this vibrant city, known for its Beatles heritage, including the Cavern Club and iconic sites like Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields. Admire the finest Victorian mercantile architecture along the UNESCO-designated waterfront during your free afternoon.

Day 13: Liverpool Tour (Beatles). We embark on a city tour highlighting the Beatles' life, and then spend the afternoon exploring this marvellous city at our own pace.

Day 14: Return. We bid a fond farewell as we transfer to the Manchester airport for our flight home.

Walking in South Wales and the Cotswolds plus London

On this scenic tour led by experienced, expert hiking guides, we will walk through delightful countryside and picturesque villages.

Each day there will be a choice of 3 different levels of walks, each designed for the avid walker. The gentle walks will range from 5km to 10km with ascents of up to 280m. More challenging walks will also be offered daily.

For the first 7-nights we will be based in the town of Bourton-on-the-Water (voted one of England's prettiest towns). Here in the Cotswolds, gentle hills, picturepostcard villages and tempting tea shops combine to make this quintessentially English countryside perfect for walking and a huge hit with the Brits themselves. Our base will be the *Harrington House*, which retains many of its stunning original Georgian features - the most delightful being the walled garden with a view of green rolling hills and timeless golden stone villages. We will spend the following 3 nights in Brecon (Wales) - a quaint market town at the foot of the Brecon Beacons mountains - an area of sweeping high moorland and beautiful green valleys. Our hotel, the historic *Nythfa House*, is a charming country house on the edge of Brecon within easy

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class country house hotels, and a First Class hotel in London
- Full English breakfast and dinner daily (except for one dinner while in London), and 9 picnic lunches
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$7197
- Single Supplement \$990
- Calgary or Halifax add \$90
- Winnipeg or Ottawa add \$190
- Edmonton add \$390
- Vancouver add \$590

14 DAYS • MAY 9 - 22

reach of the Brecon Beacons National Park and many fine walking areas - a location perfect for walkers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Our final 2 nights will be at a centrally-located hotel in "Everyone's Favourite City", London.

Tour Highlights:

- Walking the stunning Cotswolds countryside with green rolling hills criss-crossed by countless footpaths
- Bath a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Stratford-upon-Avon, including Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Distillery
- Brecon Beacons National Park
- London
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete a minimum of 6 km of walking.

Walks described are the easier option. More challenging walks will also be offered each day.

Day 1: Depart. We depart for London

Day 2: Bourton-on-the Water. We arrive in London and transfer to our country house hotel in the centre of Bourton-on-the Water. On our guided walks over the next few days we'll discover glorious golden stone villages with thatched cottages, mansions, pastoral countryside and quiet country lanes. This evening is our Welcome Briefing and Dinner.

Day 3: Salmonsbury Camp and The Windrush Valley

(walk 7km with 40m ascent). We'll follow footpaths from Bourton exploring the area directly to the south, and on our return we follow the Diamond Way. At the end of your walk there'll be plenty of time to explore Bourton-on-the-Water. Enjoy a pint in one of the pubs, visit the shops, or simply find a bench beside the River Windrush and soak up this charming rural village.

Day 4: Fish Hill to Broadway (walk 5km with 40m

ascent). Starting at Fish Hill, we follow the Cotswold Way with time to visit Broadway Tower. Then we descend to spend time exploring Broadway. Broadway Tower was the brainchild of the great 18th Century landscape designer, Capability Brown. His vision was carried out for the Earl of Coventry and was completed in 1798.

Day 5: Stratford-upon-Avon. A day in Shakespeare country! We start at Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, where Shakespeare spent his schooldays, discovered theatre and was inspired to become the world's greatest playwright. We will have a walking tour of the town, and end at Judith's (the home of Shakespeare's daughter) where we learn about the history and production of gin, ending with a tasting of course!

Day 6: Chedworth Roman Villa (walk 7km with 180m ascent). We start this walk by exploring the beautiful 12th century church of Hampnett, with its astonishingly ornate patterns of mock-medieval stencilling. We then follow the Macmillan Way to the small rural parish of Yanworth, before arriving at the Roman Villa at Chedworth.

Day 7: Hailes Abbey to Sudeley Castle (walk 4.5km with 60m ascent). We visit Hailes Abbey (dating back to 1246) before our walk to Winchcombe which will include views of

the heritage steam railway, before arriving at Sudeley Castle. Steeped in history, the castle was home (and now the burial place) of Queen Catherine Parr - one of Henry VIII's six wives.

Day 8: Lower Slaughter (walk 5km with 60m ascent). We finish our time in the Cotswolds with a circular walk from Harrington House to the charming village of Lower Slaughter - one of England's most photographed villages. The twin villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter are just a couple of miles' walk from Bourton-on-the-Water.

Day 9: Brecon, Wales. We depart the Cotswolds and make our way to the Welsh market town of Brecon, arriving at our country house hotel, *Nythfa House*, for a 3-night stay. The hotel is surrounded by breathtaking scenery and some of the best walks in Wales.

Day 10: Tretower and Crickhowell (walk 10km with 280m ascent). We walk from north of Cwndu to Tretower, famous for its renowned medieval court and castle. Then we follow a contoured path across farmland leading to the wooded Cwmbeth Brook Valley and the lovely town of Crickhowell. Soak up the history of the area and explore Crickhowell with its shops, cafes, and art galleries featuring local artists.

Day 11: Canal, Aqueduct, and River Usk (walk 10km with 30m ascent). We follow the canal tow path east out of Brecon, then across the countryside to join the River Usk back into the town. We'll marvel at the sturdy stone aqueduct that traverses the river, and learn much about this region's canal history.

Day 12: Bath / London. Enroute to London we stop in Bath for some free time to explore this UNESCO World Heritage City, famous for its classic architecture, Roman Baths and starring role in Bridgerton and Jane Austen. Later we arrive at our central London hotel.

Day 13: London. A free day in London to visit or revisit some of the countless attractions. At our Farewell Dinner we will raise a glass to say "Cheers" to this memorable walking tour.

Day 14: Return. Air Canada takes us home.

Walking in England's South Downs, and Exmoor National Park

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class *Country House* hotels
- Full English breakfast and dinner daily, and 10 picnic lunches
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$7397
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- Single Supplement \$990
- Ottawa or Winnipeg add \$190
- Halifax add \$390
- Edmonton or Calgary add \$590
- Vancouver add \$890

Join us and discover magnificent trails, a stunning coastline, and renowned historical attractions, on this 'easy to explore' walking tour.

There will be a selection of up to 3 daily walks of varying difficulty levels, including gentle walks of 5 - 6 km. We begin in South Downs National Park, which features distinctive chalk cliffs plunging into the sea, rolling hills, glorious valleys, and more ancient woodlands than any other National Park in Britain. There are spectacular views at every turn, as well as picturesque villages, market towns, and so much more.

Then, we'll discover Exmoor National Park, with its astonishing range of landscapes and moods. Purple heather and yellow gorse paint the scenery with vibrant colour, while the wooded combes and coastline offer spectacular vistas. Keep an eye out for the Exmoor ponies and wild red deer, particularly the regal stags. We'll meander through the charming towns and picturepostcard villages. Exmoor has the distinction of being named Europe's first 'Dark Sky Reserve', so on a clear night, don't forget to gaze up at the spectacular starry sky.

We end our tour in Brighton, a seaside resort with a vibrant culture, and renowned music and arts scene.

15 DAYS • JUNE 2 - 16

Tour Highlights:

<u>South Downs</u>

- Spectacular landscapes of South Downs National Park
- Stunning views of the iconic chalk cliffs and coastline
- Arundel Park and the historical village of Arundel
- The National Trust's Petworth House

Exmoor National Park

- Charming Selworthy village and its thatched cottages
- The ancient twin towns of Lynmouth and Lynton
- Nether Stowey home of the poet, Samuel Coleridge
- The beautiful harbour of Watchet

<u>Brighton</u>

- The arts & music scene in this beautiful seaside resort
- The iconic Palace Pier
- The Seven Sisters Chalk Sea Cliffs
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete a minimum of 6 km of walking.

Walks described are the easier option. More challenging walks will also be offered each day.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for London.

Day 2: South Downs. Upon arrival in London, we transfer to our hotel, which is nestled in a beautiful setting at the foot of the South Downs. A delightful cream tea awaits us as we settle in for our 4-night stay in the serene English countryside. This evening is our welcome briefing and dinner.

Day 3: Perrett's Copse and Wantley (Walking 6.5 km with ascent of 60m). We start today's walk by following the nearby ridge, admiring the stunning views. We then head towards Wantley to complete the circular route back to the House.

Day 4: Arundel Park (Walking 4.5 km with ascent of 90m).

This circular walk takes us through the landscaped grounds of Arundel Park to the pretty hamlet of South Stoke, returning alongside the River Arun. At the end of the walk, there's time to explore Arundel, which boasts 1,000 years of history, an impressive cathedral, and medieval Norman castle - the seat of the Duke of Norfolk.

Day 5: Halfway Bridge to Petworth (Walking 7 km with

ascent of 180m). We begin from Halfway Bridge and walk through fields and woodland to Petworth, soaking up this beautiful, historic corner of Sussex. The National Trust's Petworth House is a true English gem, with grounds designed by 'Capability' Brown, renowned for his garden and landscape architecture.

Day 6: Exmoor National Park. We transfer to Exmoor National Park, and our country house in Somerset, for a 7-night stay. A lovely cream tea welcomes us upon arrival.

Day 7: Holnicote to Selworthy (Walking 5 km with ascent of 240m). Today we take a circular route from Holnicote House to Selworthy. We'll explore the 15th century church, thatched cottages around the green, and maybe visit a tea room before returning to the House.

Day 8: Dunster Trail (Walking 2.5 km with ascent of 30m).

We follow a trail around the medieval village of Dunster nestled in a valley and crowned with an impressive red sandstone castle. Our guide will lead us through cobbled streets and cottage - lined lanes as we discover the rich history of this charming village perched on the River Avill. After the walk, there will be plenty of time to explore the town.

Day 9: At Leisure. A free day to enjoy the beauty of this National Park. Visit nearby attractions, take a self- guided walk, or just relax and unwind in the tranquil countryside.

Day 10: Lynmouth (Walking 7 km with ascent of 140m,

descent of 280m). We begin with a descent to Watersmeet House, a Victorian fishing lodge now owned by the National Trust, where two fast flowing rivers meet in a spectacular wooded valley. Walking downstream past deep rock pools, we'll reach Lynmouth and enjoy time to explore the town. Options include a walk out to the Valley of Rocks, visiting exhibitions on the great flood of 1952, riding the funicular cliff railway up to Lynton, or indulging in an ice cream and enjoying the scenery.

Day 11: Hilltop to Nether Stowey (Walking 8 km with ascent of 160m, descent of 420m). From high on the Quantock Hills, we're treated to breathtaking views as we traverse moorland paths once walked by Iron Age peoples and Roman soldiers. Descending past Walford's Gibbet through mystical woodlands, we arrive at Nether Stowey village, home of the poet Coleridge, with the chance to visit Coleridge Cottage. Enjoy the wonderful moorland scenery that inspired Coleridge, as well as poet William Wordsworth.

Day 12: The Mineral Line to Watchet (Walking 6 km with ascent of 100m). We start our walk in Bilbrook, and follow one of the longest river fords in the region, to reach the quintessential village of Old Cleeve, with its 17th-century church of St. Andrews. We then follow the Monk's Path to Washford, and continue along the Mineral Line track to reach Watchet. There will be time to explore its harbour, originally built at the time of Alfred the Great, and take in the views across the Bristol Channel. Or, perhaps visit the Market House Museum to learn about the fascinating history of this once important town.

Day 13: Brighton. We transfer to the lovely seaside resort city of Brighton for our final 2-nights. Upon arrival, we'll have a walking tour, followed by free time to explore the area.

Day 14: Seven Sisters Chalk Sea Cliffs. This morning's exciting tour takes us to see the magnificent dips and peaks of the Seven Sisters Chalk Sea Cliffs. One of Southern England's most striking landscapes, this series of white chalky cliffs in the English Channel creates an illusion that they're rising out of the water. The afternoon is free to explore Brighton at your leisure, and this evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Return. We fly back to Canada from London.

Walking in Provence and the French Riviera

Perfect for the avid walker and moderate hiker, this tour to Southern France showcases many delightful and unspoiled parts of Provence and the French Riviera.

Discover picturesque hilltop villages, spectacular views of the Southern Alps and Mediterranean Sea and gorgeous architecture, working up an appetite for the delicious freshly-prepared local cuisine and wines. Each day we will enjoy walks ranging from 5km - 12km with ascents of 100m - 400m, led by experienced hiking guides on good paths (which are sometimes rocky underfoot).

We begin in Provence with 5 nights in charming Gréouxles-Les-Bains, an ancient Roman town with thermal baths. Our hotel is the *Villa Borghese*, a member of the prestigious Château et Demeures de Tradition group. The hotel has beautiful grounds, a spa, an outdoor heated swimming pool shaded by century-old oak trees, and a restaurant renowned for the quality of its regional cuisine.

We spend the next 5 nights in the Riviera's best kept secret - Menton, known throughout the country as "The Pearl of France". Menton's old town with its pastel buildings, fragrant lemon trees and pristine beachfront is a delight. Situated at the base of the Alps, the town is a hiker's paradise. We will stay at the lovingly restored *Hotel*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 9 dinners and 1 lunch. Wine & coffee with all dinners.
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$7397
- Single supplement \$990
- Montreal add \$90. Halifax add \$690.
- Ottawa add \$290 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, or Edmonton - add \$990

12 DAYS • APRIL 12 - 23

Royal Westminster - a 19th century Belle Epoque style palace located directly on the seafront promenade (and all of our rooms are seaview!)

Tour Highlights:

- Explore dramatic clifftop villages described as the most beautiful in France
- Visits of Simiane-La-Rotonde and its castle
- Visit of the lively Provencal market of Forcalquier
- Visit of Eze Exotic Garden
- Walking tour of Menton
- Explore the Mourres Plateau, the Provencal Colorado in Rustrel and Verdon Gorge - Europe's largest canyon
- Guided visit of Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild
- An excursion to Italy's beloved Liguria region, with a typical Italian lunch and guided visit of Dolceacqua
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete up to 11 km of walking on varied terrain.

Itinerary for Provence and the French Riviera

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Marseille via Paris.

Day 2: Gréoux-Les-Bains. We arrive in Marseille and transfer to Gréoux-les-Bains for a 5-night stay. This evening we enjoy our first dinner in France. Bon appetit!

Day 3: Day trip to Moustiers-Sainte-Marie (Walk 6km with 110m ascent OR 10km with 350m ascent). We walk along the ridge above the Moustiers-Ste-Marie, considered one of the Most Beautiful Villages of France. The town has ancient gates, medieval architecture, pottery shops and a gorgeous location at the base of rocky cliffs. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the Provencal Alps and Lake Sainte Croix as we walk the old Roman path down towards the village.

Day 4: Day trip to Forcalquier / Mourres Plateau (Walk 7km with 200m ascent OR 11km with 400m ascent). We

begin at the picturesque hilltop town of Forcalquier - home to one of the largest and liveliest Provencal markets. We will explore the market, then visit a typical olive mill and take in the gorgeous views over the Luberon landscape. Then we proceed with our walk on the Mourres Plateau where mushroom-shaped formations resemble human faces - a true geological wonder!

Day 5: Day trip to Rustrel / Simiane-la-Rotonde / Banon (Walk 5km with 150m ascent). We travel to Rustrel, known for its amazing ochre cliffs and small canyons which gave the village the nickname the "Provencal Colorado". On our walk we will see an incredible succession of rust-coloured rocks, golden cliffs and red earthen chimneys which rise majestically out of the vegetation. Then we visit Simianela-Rotonde, listed as one of the most beautiful villages of Provence, where Mediterranean and Alpine influences meet. We will enjoy a visit of the medieval castle and free time to wander the charming streets of the village.

Day 6: Trip to Verdon Gorge (Walk 8km with 150m ascent OR 12km with 250m ascent). We head to the village of Quinson for a scenic walk along the lower Verdon Gorges. The walkway follows an old canal previously used to carry drinking water to Aix-en-Provence. The views of the turquoise waters of the Canal are quite wonderful. We return to Gréoux where the rest of the day will be at leisure.

Day 7: Menton. We proceed to Menton for a 5-night stay. On our walking tour of this delightful seaside resort we'll take in the lovely pastel-coloured architecture, the old town, the

cemetery where many prominent 19th century English and Russian figures are buried, and the enchanting views of the surrounding countryside.

Day 8: Menton. At leisure in Menton to explore this exquisite town, enjoy a swim in the Mediterranean Sea, tour the museum dedicated to the artist Jean Cocteau, or visit nearby towns such as Monaco or Nice.

Day 9: Day trip to La Turbie / Eze (Walk 5km with 100m ascent OR 10km with 300m ascent). Our walk begins in La Turbie. Overlooking the Principality of Monaco, this small town resembles a balcony hanging over the Mediterranean and seems to float in the sky. The tall Trophée d'Auguste built 2,000 years ago for the glory of Emperor Augustus is still impressive, while the rest of the town, with its medieval vaulted passageways, bell tower and baroque fountains is enchanting. Then walk on the trail towards Eze - a fine 14th century village built on a hill. We'll enjoy a visit of the exotic garden and magnificent views over the coast.

Day 10: Day trip to Italy. We cross into Italy for a beautiful day of sightseeing. We first discover the beautifully-preserved medieval town of Dolceacqua located in the Lugarian Hills. The town enchants visitors with its scenic bridges and small houses that circle the Castello dei Doria, immortalized in French impressionist painter Claude Monet's painting The Castle of Dolceacqua. We will enjoy a typical Italian lunch at a local restaurant featuring fresh locally-grown food. Later we visit the perched village of Apricale - surrounded by forested hills, it is on the list of the "Most Beautiful Villages in Italy".

Day 11: Day trip to Cap Ferrat / Villa Ephrussi (Walk 11km with 150m ascent). Our last walk is on the picturesque hiking path along the rocky seaside from Beaulieu and around the main peninsula of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. We pass magnificent villas and see how unspoiled Cap Ferrat has remained. We conclude our walk with a visit of the Villa Ephrussi - home of the Rothschild family. The villa's opulent furnishings, garden with dancing fountains and views of the Mediterranean are breathtaking – a wonderful way to end our tour! Tonight enjoy a farewell cocktail followed by dinner.

Day 12: Home. We fly back to Canada via Paris.

Walking and Sightseeing in Sardinia

Italy's Mediterranean jewel, Sardinia, is known for its pristine waters, the variety of its coastlines, hidden coves and breathtaking landscapes and seascapes.

However there is much more to this island that has made it one of Europe's most popular holiday destinations.

Aside from the bluest of blue seas, and the whitest of sandy beaches, the island has impressive mountain ranges, with views stretching as far as the horizon, and wide plains covered in wild flowers in the springtime.

Sardinia is also know for its hospitality, and despite the recent growth of tourism in recent years, it has retained its wild, unspoiled beauty. Visitors know they will enjoy a completely authentic experience when they visit.

On this 3-Centre walking holiday we will enjoy a stay in the picturesque seaside resort towns of Palau, Alghero and Cagliari, from which we will discover the island's intriguing history and archaeological sites, its hilltop villages, wonderful natural reserves and unique wildlife, while walking along picturesque coastal paths and forested trails. There will be options on most days to choose between longer and shorter walks.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 8 dinners, (with wine & coffee) and 1 lunch
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto \$8997
- •••••
- Single supplement \$990
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$990

14 DAYS • APRIL 13 - 26

Tour Highlights

- The village of San Pantaleo and the breathtaking landscapes of the Costa Esmeralda
- Giant's Tombs Coddu Ecchiu and Barumini Nuraghe
- Trek in the famous Moon Valley
- Punta Giglio promontory with lunch in Agriturismo
- Walking tour of the beautiful walled city of Alghero
- Cap of Capo Caccia and the Neptune Caves
- Argentiera Mines and visit a wine cellar with tasting
- Walking tour of Cagliari and its medieval quarter
- Giara Plateau home to Sardina's little wild horses
- Sette Fratelli Park and WWF Park Monte Arcosu
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete up to 10 km of walking on varied terrain.

Walking and Sightseeing in Sardinia

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Sardinia via Munich.

Day 2: Olbia / Palau. We arrive and transfer to our hotel in Palau for a 3-night stay. The rest of the day is free until our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: San Pantaleo / Palau (Walk 3km with 175m ascent). For our first walk, we take in the idyllic town and surroundings of San Pantaleo, nestled between imposing granite mountains, set above the famous Costa Smeralda. This rustic town was on the Roman road that led from Olbia to Santa Teresa di Gallura, and to the ports of the Gulf of Asinara. There will be time to explore the town with its bohemian vibe, artsy shops and cafes. This afternoon we'll discover the fascinating Giant's Tombs Coddu Ecchiu - a Sardinian megalithic gallery grave built during the Bronze Age.

Day 4: Moon Valley / Palau (Walk 7km or 13km with 180m

ascent). We head to Aggius for a trek in the famous Moon Valley, a quiet place far from the main roads. The landscape includes mountains and plateaus of various shapes, colossal granite boulders and jagged granite peaks. In the afternoon we'll visit the town of Tempio Pausania before returning to the hotel.

Day 5: Costa Paradiso / Castelsardo / Alghero (Walk 8km with 220m ascent or 12 km with 400m ascent). We travel to Costa

Paradiso, and walk on a trail rich in the colours and scents of Mediterranean maquis, with nearby pink granite walls. The path runs by enchanting hidden coves with crystal clear waters, beautiful white sand beaches and offers amazing panoramic views. We continue by coach to Castelsardo to visit this town perched on a plateau facing the sea, and then to one of Sardinia's most beautiful medieval cities - Alghero, our home for the next four nights.

Day 6: Punta Giglio / Agriturismo / Alghero (Walk 8km with 180m ascent). We visit the natural oasis of Punta Giglio - a limestone promontory which encloses the Bay of Porto Conte. This area, which boasts numerous lily plants in the springtime, is a Marine Protected Area. Because of its strategic position, it was an important anti-aircraft base during WWII, and structures like barracks, anti-aircraft platforms and arms storage still exist (built of local limestone and camouflaged from the view from the sea). After a tasty lunch at a local farm, we'll head back to Alghero for our walking tour. We'll discover its old centre with narrow cobblestoned lanes, impressive Gothic buildings and many coral shops. This evening we are free to discover the many restaurant options in this town.

Day 7: Capo Caccia / Neptune Caves / Alghero. (Walk 7km with 280m ascent or 13 km with 575m ascent). Today we discover the Limestone Cap of Capo Caccia facing the Gulf of Alghero. The trail follows the edge of the cliff overlooking the sea. Walking along this "limestone giant", we'll reach 200 meters above sea level, for unique panoramas of the Foradada Islands and the Bay of Porto Conte. At the Capo Caccia Lighthouse, we'll begin to descend towards the sea. Following an ancient path, we'll reach one of the 16th century Spanish defensive towers. Later, we'll visit the Neptune Caves.

Day 8: Argentiera Mines / Wine Tasting / Alghero (Walk 6km with 290 m ascent or 13km with 530m ascent). We explore one of Sardinia's hidden treasures. Argentiers Mines, an abandened

Sardinia's hidden treasures - Argentiera Mines, an abandoned mining village where miners once extracted lead, silver and zinc, set in a very scenic area overlooking 2 amazing beaches with transparent waters. Later we visit a wine cellar and enjoy a tasting of some of the great wines produced in this region. Afternoon at leisure in Alghero.

Day 9: Giara Plateau / Nuraghi of Barumini (Walk 6 km with

100m ascent). We depart for Cagliari with a stop en route at the basalt Plateau of the Giara to admire the scenery and the unique Sardinian wild horses. We'll enjoy an easy walk through the Giara Plateau and enjoy a typical Sardinian snack. Later we'll visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Su Nuraxi di Barumini - an ancient megalithic building found only in Sardinia. Today it has become the symbol of Sardinia and its distinctive ancient culture. More than 7,000 nuraghi have been found on the island. We continue to the Sardinian Capital of Cagliari, for a 4-night stay.

Day 10: Sette Fratelli Park / Cagliari (Walk 11km with 150m ascent). We travel to the Regional Park of Sette Fratelli - one of Sardinia's largest natural parks, with 7 mountain peaks. The stunning landscapes here include dense forests, steep cliffs, canyons, towers of pink granite rock, a lagoon coloured coastline, unique flora and rare wildlife. The park is home to many Sardinian deer., as well as wild boars, golden eagles and rare Sardinian goshawk. Later we'll explore the old part of Cagliari on foot. The medieval quarter has mighty walls that surround the Castle, imposing towers, the Bastion of Saint Remy, the old port, a Cathedral and narrow alleys. There is also a Royal Palace, the Museum of the Citadel, antique shops and artisans.

Day 11: Capo Spartivento (Walk 6km with 200m ascent or 11 km with 325m ascent). We visit the beautiful Capo Spartivento, whose granite promontory reaches 66 meters. From here there are amazing views of beaches, the rocks called "The Pavilions" and the Isola Ferraglione. A dirt road will lead us to an ancient lighthouse that illuminated the way for sailors for over 160 years. This evening is free to further explore the marvellous waterfront town of Cagliari.

Day 12: Oasis WWF Monte Arcosu (Walk 10km with 100m

ascent). We discover the Oasis Monte Arcosu - the largest WWF reserve in Italy, with almost 4000 hectares of forest, where the Sardinian deer roams undisturbed. We enjoy an easy trek here, and tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 13: Frankfurt. The day is free, until our late afternoon flight to Frankfurt, where we will overnight.

Day 14: Return. We fly back to Canada.

Hiking Cinque Terre and the Amalfi Coast

Designed for avid walkers and moderate hikers, this active-paced vacation will take you to two of Italy's most beloved areas.

The Cinque Terre is known for its spectacular hiking paths linking the 5 towns, each prettier than the last. The Amalfi Coast equally offers stunning views, and it has one of Italy's largest concentration of gardens, villas and museums. Each day there will be a choice of two walks, ranging from 5 to 10 kms with ascents averaging 300m, led by experienced hiking guides.

Our home base for the first 5-nights is the family-run *Hotel Carla* situated near the Ligurian coast in the town of Levanto, known as the hidden gem of the Italian Riviera and considered the gateway to the Cinque Terre.

On the Amalfi Coast we'll stay at the *Reginna Palace Hotel*, set in a truly spectacular location overlooking the bay, right by the Maiori waterfront and city centre - a perfect base from which to explore the region.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, plus 1 lunch. Wine, mineral water, and coffee with all dinners
- Guided walking tour program
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

• per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

April 14 - \$8597

April 28 - \$8997

- Single supplement \$1190
- Montreal or Vancouver add \$290
- Ottawa add \$490 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- * Add-ons below include a Toronto overnight
- Halifax add \$790
- Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton add \$1090

<u>13 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024</u> APRIL 14 - 26 APRIL 28 - MAY 10

Tour Highlights:

- Exploring the 5 towns of the Cinque Terre by way of the famous spectacular walking paths
- Full-day guided tour to Santa Margherita, including Castello Brown, Portofino, and a boat trip
- Visit of Montepulciano
- Excursion to Mount Vesuvius
- Guided visits of Amalfi and Ravello, with a visit of Villa Rufolo
- The ancient Sentiero dei Limoni (Path of the Lemons)
- Positano and the "Pathway of the Gods"
- * Those participating on this walking tour must be able to complete up to 7 km of walking on varied terrain.

Hiking Cinque Terre and Amalfi Coast

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Florence, via Paris.

Day 2: Levanto. We arrive in Florence and transfer to Levanto our base for the next 5 nights. This evening our guides will welcome us and give an orientation briefing on the walks offered during the tour.

Day 3: Levanto to Bonassola (Walk 4km with 300m descent, or 8km with extension). For our first walk, we embark a local train to Levanto, followed by a delightful walk to the enchanting village of Bonassola, a walk that offers breathtaking vistas of the Mediterranean Sea. We'll meander through this picturesque coastal town, immersing ourselves in its serene beauty, before catching a train to Riomaggiore. Here, we'll have the option to unwind, or enjoy an invigorating hike to the village's summit, where panoramic views await.

Day 4: Cinque Terre Coastal Path (Walk 1km with 100m ascent, or 4km with 300m ascent with extension). We travel by train to some of the most picturesque towns of the Cinque Terre. We start with Corniglia, nestled in the middle of the five towns. Corniglia is perched on a promontory set away from the sea, and is surrounded on three sides by vineyards and terraces. After exploring the charming town, we take the train to Vernazza. This town is often called the prettiest of the five Cinque Terre villages, with its colourful houses winding down to its harbour, which is protected by a rocky headland. Those who wish may walk to the spectacular Vernazza viewpoint.

Day 5: Santa Margherita / Portofino. Today, we'll take a train to Santa Margherita, a Ligurian fishing village turned charming coastal resort town on the beautiful Italian Riviera. We'll explore the town, and see the spectacular basilica and palazzo gardens, before embarking on a coastal walk to Portofino. When we arrive there, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the town, followed by the stunning views and gardens at Castello Brown. To return, we'll take a boat back to Santa Margherita and a train to Levanto.

Day 6: Corniglia Manarola (Walk 2km with 100m ascent, or 5km with 400m ascent). We'll take a train to Corniglia in order to walk one of the most well-known paths of the Cinque Terre, The Azzuro Path - a trail revered as one of Europe's most stunning and picturesque routes. This ancient path, steeped in history, once served as the sole means of communication between the five charming fishing villages of Cinque Terre. Following our hike, we'll board a train to Monterosso, a coastal gem awaiting exploration. There, we'll enjoy ample time to uncover the town's treasures, indulge in local specialties, and savour the essence of this enchanting place. Day 7: Montepulciano / Castle Madama. We travel inland, stopping enroute in one of Tuscany's loveliest hilltop towns, medieval Montepulciano. After our included lunch we'll have some free time to discover the town's elegant Renaissance palaces, ancient churches and squares with stunning views over the countryside covered by vineyards producing the famous "Vino Nobile". We then continue to Attigliano in the heart of Umbria for an overnight.

Day 8: Mount Vesuvius / Maiori (Walk 4km with 180m ascent). On this scenic day we head to the Amalfi Coast. Enroute we will explore the slopes of famous Mount Vesuvius where, on a clear day, the views over the Bay of Naples are stunning. After our visit we will continue to our hotel in Maiori for a 4-night stay.

Day 9: Trip to Amalfi. We visit the famous town of Amalfi, set below the steep cliffs of the coast on the Tyrrhenian Sea. We will see the stunning Arab-Norman cathedral, the medieval shipyards (now an exhibition space) and enjoy some free time before returning to Maori for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 10: Valley Delle Ferriere National Park (Walk 5km with 300m ascent, or 8km with 120m Ascent). A short transfer takes us to the captivating town of Ravello, where a guided walking tour awaits. Included is a visit to the renowned Villa Rufolo, celebrated for its enchanting hanging gardens that command breathtaking views of the Mediterranean. Then, we'll enjoy a scenic hike along the Valle Delle Ferriere, which features picturesque vistas and verdant foliage, enroute to the charming village of Pontone. As we descend, we'll be awestruck by the spectacular panoramas of the Amalfi Coast.

Day 11: Day trip to the Pathway of the Gods / Positano (Walk 5km with 100m ascent OR 8km with 100m ascent). We travel by bus to Agerola where we'll begin the spectacular walk to Positano along the route known as the "Pathway of the Gods". The route offers breathtaking views over the Amalfi peninsula. Picturesque Positano is a nearly vertical town with houses built on terraces in Moorish style with balconies beneath arcades. The town was made popular by many artists and writers.

Day 12: The Sentiero dei Limoni (Walk 4km with 180m ascent OR 7.5km with 300m ascent). Today's hike takes us along the Sentiero dei Limoni (Path of the Lemons) – since Roman times, one of the most popular walks on the Amalfi Coast. This ancient route follows the coast through terraced lemon groves and connects the seaside towns of Maiori and Minori. There is spectacular scenery throughout the walk - truly a feast for the senses! This evening we'll enjoy our Farewell Dinner.

Day 13: Home. We fly home from Naples, via Paris.

St. Lawrence River Cruise

plus 2 nights in Quebec City

On this unique voyage, we'll step back in time and experience Canada like the original voyageurs who travelled up and down the St. Lawrence River.

Our cruise weaves a connecting link from the magnificent 1000 Islands and St. Lawrence Seaway, to the rich French culture of Quebec, while navigating the incredible International St. Lawrence Seaway and it's locks.

En route we will discover the historical roots of "Loyalist Brockville", the unique living community of Upper Canada Village, and vibrant Montreal. Following our cruise we'll enjoy a two night stay in Quebec City - a designated UNSECO World Heritage Site with over 400 years of history. We will enjoy a city tour and time on our own to explore the walled city's shops, bistros, and art galleries.

Our riverboat, the moderate *MV Canadian Empress,* is a small intimate ship especially built for cruising the St.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Deluxe coach transportation from Toronto to Kingston
- Air Canada flight home from Quebec City (add-ons below also include the flight to Toronto from various Canadian cities)
- Cruise, port taxes, all meals daily, all shore excursions
- 2-night stay at the *Chateau Laurier* in Quebec City (or similar), including breakfast daily, Farewell Dinner and a city tour
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

- Category St. Lawrence (with portholes that open)...... \$6397
- Category Ottawa (with windows that open)...... \$6997
-
- Single Supplement (*Category St. Lawrence* only) \$2790
- Ottawa add \$190 (No flight to Toronto. Ground transport. to Kingston. Return flight from Quebec City)
- * Add-ons below include the flight to Toronto (June 11), a Toronto overnight before the cruise, and flight home from Quebec City
- Montreal or Calgary add \$290
- Edmonton or Winnipeg add \$490
- Vancouver or Halifax add \$590

9 DAYS • JUNE 12 - 20

Lawrence River. This classic replica steamboat-style ship combines modern engineering with charming Victorianera style decor. Aboard our fully air-conditioned ship you may relax on the Sun Deck, enjoy a game of shuffleboard, parlour games or kite flying. There are also observation areas to take in the beautiful scenery. Each evening there will be comedic, cultural or magical entertainment.

Dining onboard includes three meals daily with coffee and tea, and domestic wine and beer with all lunches and dinners. Afternoon tea and snacks are offered as well.

The cabins have twin beds, private bathroom with shower only, individual climate control, and sound system.

* Client must be fit and active. The ship has no elevators, and shore excursions involve quite a bit of walking. **Day 1: Departure / Embarkation.** We depart Toronto for Kingston by coach, with a stop in picturesque Picton. Upon arrival in Kingston we transfer to the *MV Canadian Empress*. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard.

Days 2: 1000 Islands / Gananoque / Brockville. This morning we sail around the beautiful 1000 Islands, Wanderer's Channel and the Admiralty Group of Islands. Nature lovers will be in awe of the wildlife spotted along the shores of the islands. In Gananoque, we will enjoy a tour of the Heritage Museum of the 1000 Islands, featuring vintage boats, dioramas, and interactive displays related to the history of the area. We will also visit the 1000 Island Boat Museum, and also Fulford Mansion - once home to Senator George T. Fulford. The mansion showcases the luxurious lifestyle of another era.

Day 3: Brockville / Fort Wellington / Morrisburg. To start the day, we enjoy a tour of Aquatarium featuring an interactive experience of history and nature along the St. Lawrence River. Then we visit Fort Wellington National Historic Site, one of the best preserved 19th century fortifications in Canada. It depicts life when the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment was stationed here in the 1840's.

Day 4: Upper Canada Village / Coteau Landing. This morning horse-drawn wagons take us to Upper Canada Village. The village is a fascinating living museum community that recreates the life, work, and development of the early settlements along the upper St. Lawrence River valley. In the afternoon we will pass through the American Eisenhower and Snell locks on our way to Couteau Landing, Quebec.

Day 5: Montreal. We arrive in the port of Montreal in the late morning and upon arrival enjoy a harbour tour. Later, on our coach tour of Montreal, we will see Notre Dame Basilica - a masterpiece of Gothic Revival, Mount Royal with its sweeping views of the downtown area and St. Lawrence River, St. Joseph's Oratory - one of the world's most visited shrines, Old Montreal, the French Quarter, and McGill University.

Day 6: Trois Rivieres. We arrive in Trois Rivieres in the afternoon, and enjoy a city tour. Then you may choose to visit either the Shrine at Cap de la Madeleine, or the Borealis Industrial Museum. Cap de la Madeleine is an oasis of peace and greenery. The huge Basilica here has impressive stained glass windows, and the beautiful grounds feature a lake with an island in the middle, gardens, and walkways overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The Borealis Industrial Museum is located in the former filtration plant of the Canadian International Paper Company. The museum shows the human side of the paper industry, as it pays tribute to the lumberjacks, log drivers, and workers, who dedicated their lives to their job. Tonight we enjoy big band sounds, songs, and dancing on our last night onboard our ship.

Day 7: Disembarkation / Quebec City. We sail past magnificent Montmorency Falls (weather permitting) upon our approach to romantic Quebec City. In the afternoon we disembark our ship and proceed on our city tour, during which we'll see the provincial Parliament buildings, the Belvedere overlooking the St. Lawrence River, Plains of Abraham, Joan of Arc Garden, Laval University, Old Quebec City, Place Royale and Petit Champlain Street.

Day 8: Quebec City. A day at leisure to stroll the romantic European-style cobble-stone streets of Quebec City's famous Old Town. Those who wish may also visit Montmorency Falls or Ile d'Orleans. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 9: Home. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Come immerse yourself in the heart of the wilderness and discover the very best of Alaska.

This cruise is the ideal way to see the rugged, snowy and incredibly beautiful landscape of the "Last Frontier". Gaze upon the sea lions as they surround your ship, marvel at the whales breeching, try your luck panning for gold, go dog-sledding with a real musher, or simply sit back in your deck chair and view the spectacular grandeur of the snow-capped mountains and the ever changing glaciers a breathtaking image you'll never forget.

We will cruise in luxury aboard the *Grand Princess* - a floating resort with all the amenities of a 5-star resort hotel. Princess ships offer a perfect balance of tradition and innovation, and their award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs will bring the culture and colours of Alaska to life.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 7-night cruise as described, all meals, port taxes, all tipping, activities & entertainment
- One night hotel in Vancouver, with dinner, breakfast, and a city tour
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal
 - Inside Cabin.....\$4397
 - Outside Cabin (obstructed view)......\$4497
 - Outside Cabin (clear view)\$5697
 - Outside cabin with private balcony...\$5997
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above
- Winnipeg deduct \$100
- Edmonton or Calgary deduct \$300
- Vancouver deduct \$400
- Halifax add \$490 (includes an overnight in Vancouver en route to Anchorage)

9 DAYS • AUGUST 21 - 29

Dining on board a Princess cruise ship is a celebration in the truest sense with every dish "designed for fresh". From hand-tossed pizza to dazzling multi-course gourmet dinners, you will enjoy freshly prepared cuisine that celebrates Alaska's history.

As for entertainment - dazzling stage sets, performers from around the world, modern hits and timeless classics all come together on board to create lavish productions that can be seen only in the state-of-the-art Princess theatres! There truly is evening entertainment to suit every mood.

Following our cruise, we will overnight in a downtown Vancouver hotel. Dinner and a city tour are included.

* All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.

Day 1: Departure / Anchorage. We depart for Anchorage, Alaska with a change of planes in Vancouver. Upon arrival we transfer to our ship. This evening we enjoy our first meal aboard, and the only challenge will be deciding what to order while our amazing surroundings provide so much to see.

Day 2: Hubbard Glacier (Scenic Cruising). Hubbard Glacier is the longest tidewater glacier in Alaska, extending 76 miles from its source on Mt. Logan in the Yukon. You will hear the creaks and groans as this very active glacier advances. There will be exciting moments when the huge chunks of ice crash into the bay creating a wonderful sound the local people call "white thunder".

Day 3: Glacier Bay National Park (Scenic Cruising).

Today is a highlight of our cruise. Under a blanket of silence we gaze upon the ice cliffs and their changing colours of blue, green, white and grey, as we look and listen for the massive slabs of ice to crash into the water. You'll want to make sure you are out on the deck to watch for seals and whales.

Day 4: Skagway. Nestled in a narrow fjord amidst towering mountains, Skagway's natural beauty, coupled with its historical significance, makes it a truly special destination. The town's connection to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 adds a unique charm, providing visitors with an opportunity to step back in time and experience the frontier spirit.

Day 5: Juneau. Step back in time to the spot where Joe Juneau and Dick Harris found gold nuggets "as large as beans". See relics of the gold mines that brought wealth to the town before even the Klondike Gold Rush. Optional excursions will be offered to see the awesome Mendenhall Glacier.

Day 6: Ketchikan. Southeast Alaska's "First City" is as picturesque as they come, as many buildings are built on pilings over the water. Stroll down historic Creek Street to Dolly's House, or venture outside town to see a forest of hand-carved totem poles. This is also your gateway to Misty Fjords National Monument.

Day 7: At Sea. A day to relax or enjoy the world of exciting activities on board our ship, from cooking demonstrations to dance contests and wine tasting.

Day 8: Vancouver. This morning we disembark in Vancouver and proceed on a tour of this beautiful city, including famed Stanley Park, Gastown, Chinatown and more. After our tour we will enjoy dinner and an overnight in a centrally-located hotel.

Day 9: Home. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Alaska Cruise and Tour with Princess Cruises

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- 7 night cruise, all tipping and port taxes, all meals, activities and entertainment
- Land portion 3 nights Deluxe and First Class hotels (no meals included)
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 1

The magnificence of Alaska includes breathtaking National Parks, stunning glaciers, mighty rivers, blue icebergs, unforgettable wildlife and – of course! - fresh Alaska seafood.

This cruise-and-land tour is an ideal way to experience the rugged and incredibly beautiful landscape of "The Last Frontier". Marvel at the ever-changing glaciers, gaze upon the sea lions as they surround our ship, watch the whales breeching, have a drink in a real saloon, experience dog-sledding with a real musher, or simply sit back in your deck chair and view the grandeur of the snow-capped mountains and vast glaciers.

The 7-night cruise portion of our adventure will be aboard the *Grand Princess* - a floating resort featuring all the amenities of a resort hotel. Princess ships are renowned for their dining experiences, with every dish "designed for fresh" and cuisine that celebrates Alaska's history. As for entertainment, you will enjoy the lavish productions that can only be seen in the state-of-the-art Princess theatres!

In addition to our cruise this program also includes a luxury rail adventure, a night at Denali National Park (renowned for its abundant wildlife), a night at beautiful Mt. McKinley Lodge and a night in Anchorage. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard

11 DAYS • 3 DATES IN 2024

programs will bring Alaska to life: so in addition to experiencing some of the world's most spectacular scenery, we will also learn about the indigenous cultures of the region as well as the intriguing history of the Gold Rush.

Tour Highlights:

- Mt. McKinley
- Dazzling scenery of George Parks Highway
- Wildlife viewing in Denali National Park
- Scenic viewing on the luxury rail McKinley Express
- Scenic cruising at the Hubbard Glacier
- Scenic cruising in Glacier Bay
- Skagway Gateway to the gold fields
- Juneau stunning natural beauty
- Ketchikan with homes built over the water
- * All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.

DATES AND COSTS (per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, or Winnipeg)

	Inside cabin	Outside cabin Obstructed View	Outside cabin Clear View	Outside cabin Private Balcony
July 21	\$6397	\$6497	\$7797	\$8197
August 18	\$6197	\$6297	\$7397	\$7797
September 1	\$5997	\$6097	\$7197	\$7497

• Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above

• Halifax add \$290 (overnight in Vancouver) • Calgary or Edmonton deduct \$200 • Vancouver deduct \$400

CRUISES

Itinerary for Alaska Cruise and Tour

Day 1: Departure / Anchorage. We fly to Anchorage with a change of planes in Vancouver. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel for an evening at leisure. This is Alaska's most cosmopolitan city, with great restaurants and places to explore.

Day 2: Mt. McKinley. Our motorcoach journey this morning takes us along the scenic George Parks Highway - one of the most dazzling roads in Alaska, featuring awesome views of Mt. McKinley. We overnight at the Mt. *McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge* - a true wilderness retreat with a host of recreational activities. Tonight you may want to enjoy a leisurely dinner at the Alaskan Bar & Grill - a perfect end to a great day in this inspiring wilderness setting.

Day 3: Denali National Park. Another spectacular motorcoach tour takes us deep into the pristine wilderness of Denali National Park for a National History Tour. Our guide will make stops at points of interest including a view of the Snowy Alaska Range. Look out for wildlife - there's plenty of it here! The evening is free to enjoy one of the many optional activities such as golf (yes, golf!), helicopter "flightseeing", river rafting, hiking in the backcountry, or you may want to see the "Music of Denali" dinner theatre - a fun way to learn about local history.

Day 4: Luxury Rail / Whittier / Embarkation. We board the luxury rail cars of the McKinley Express for the scenic ride to Whittier. The train windows allow maximum viewing of the awesome landscape. In Whittier we embark our ship and enjoy our first delicious dinner on board.

Day 5: Hubbard Glacier (Scenic Cruising). Hubbard Glacier is the longest tidewater glacier in Alaska, extending 76 miles from Mt. Logan in the Yukon. You will hear the creaks and groans as this very active glacier advances. There will be exciting moments when huge chunks of ice crash into the bay creating a wonderful sound, locally called "white thunder".

Day 6: Glacier Bay National Park (Scenic Cruising). This is the highlight of our cruise. In silence, we gaze upon the ice cliffs and their colours of blue, green and white. In order to protect the delicate environment only a limited number of permits are issued for ships who meet the strict criteria. Watch for bears on the shore as well as whales and seals.

Day 7: Skagway. Nestled in a narrow fjord amidst towering mountains, Skagway's natural beauty, coupled with its historical significance, makes it a special destination. The town's connection to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 adds a unique charm, providing visitors with an opportunity to step back in time and experience the frontier spirit.

Day 8: Juneau. A day in Alaska's historic capital. Perhaps visit the Alaska State Museum which features rare Eskimo and Indian artifacts. See relics of the gold mines that brought wealth to the town in its early days.

Day 9: Ketchikan. Southeast Alaska's "first city" is as picturesque as they come. The town is built on pilings over the water and clings to the slopes of Deer Mountain. Indigenous culture abounds at Totem Bight State Park.

Day 10. Cruising the Inside Passage. Following all the sightseeing of the past week, a leisure day at sea will be a lovely break. Relax on deck and watch the beauty of the Inside Passage float by as we cruise along the spectacular coast of British Columbia.

Day 11: Vancouver / Home. We arrive in Vancouver, disembark and fly home.

Greenland and Eastern Canada Cruise

on the Emerald Princess

In a region of crystal-clear skies and the world's cleanest air, Greenland is known for its magnificent vistas of mountains and valleys, stunning icebergs, wildlife on land and in the water, and colourful houses perched on rocky slopes.

Here, on the world's largest island, you will find volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, lava fields, green mountains with surprising wildflowers, breathtaking fjords and photogenic villages of colourfully-painted wooden cottages. Icebergs and glaciers are probably the most famous features of the island – colossal and fantastic shapes of blue and white that float on a sea of deep azure. As for wildlife, Greenland is famed for its seals, whales, polar bears, reindeer and more. Greenlanders are a blend of Inuit and Danish, resulting in a society rich in its own unique culture.

Our cruise, which begins and ends in Boston, sails first to Nova Scotia and the west coast of Newfoundland, then to spectacular Greenland, and returns via St. Anthony and

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 17-night cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Montreal, or Halifax
- Inside Cabin\$6797
- Outside Cabin (obstructed view)\$7597
- Outside Cabin (clear view)\$8797
- Outside Cabin with private balcony......\$9997
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above Add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto en route to Boston
- Ottawa add \$390
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver add \$490

18 DAYS • AUGUST 11 - 28

St. John's, Newfoundland. So we will also get to experience the beauty, historic areas and the hospitality of the Atlantic provinces as well!

Our ship is the *Emerald Princess*, which features all the amenities of a 5-star resort hotel. Award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs will bring everything to life, and talented chefs will take you on a mouth-watering culinary journey featuring local fare.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck with feature films, lavish Broadway productions and international performers in the state-of-the art Princess theatres!

- * All shore excursions are optional and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website or on board the ship.
- * Shore excursions at Greenland ports may be limited. Most of the ports are easy for walking and exploring.

Day 1: Departure / Embarkation. We depart for Boston, and upon arrival we transfer to our ship. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard.

Day 2: At Sea. A day to relax or enjoy the world of exciting activities on board our ship, from cooking demonstrations to dance contests and wine tasting.

Day 3: Sydney, Nova Scotia. Known for its beauty and distinctive Celtic music and culture, Sydney is the gateway to many attractions. Enjoy a spectacular drive along part of the Cabot Trail - considered one of Canada's most scenic highways. You may want to tour the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, containing the largest collection of Bell's inventions, including replicas of the first telephone. Or visit the Fortress of Louisburg - the largest reconstructed 18th-century French fortified town in North America and a National Historic Site of Canada.

Days 4: At Sea.

Day 5: Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Corner Brook offers a captivating blend of natural beauty and cultural experiences. Here you may join an optional tour to Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you can see the Tablelands – a landform resembling the surface of the moon. Or, pay a visit to the Captain Cook Monument, perched high atop Crow's Hill, with spectacular views of the bay. You may also choose to explore the scenic Bay of Islands, the charming fishing village of Lark Harbour, or wander through town stopping at the Corner Brook Museum and Art Gallery, which showcases local heritage and contemporary creations.

Days 6 & 7: At Sea.

Day 8: Nuuk, Greenland. Nuuk is the island's capital and, with about 16,000 people, its largest city. Visit the Greenland National Museum, featuring kayaks, dog sleds and other treasures of Inuit and Viking culture, as well as preserved Inuit mummies more than 500 years old. You may also see the Katuaq Cultural Centre – an iconic architectural structure with golden screens of wood inspired by the Northern Lights. The centre hosts concerts, film presentations, theatrical performances and rotating art installations featuring the works of artists from around the world.

Day 9: At Sea.

Day 10: Qaqortoq, Greenland. Qaqortoq means "White Palace" in Greenlandic. See the amazing Stone and Man Art Collection throughout the town - 40 intricatelyengraved figures of whales, faces and other traditional designs carved into granite. Visit Vor Frelsers Kirke: built in 1832, it is the official cathedral of Greenland.

Day 11: Nanortalik, Greenland. Here in this extraordinary and isolated port (which translates to "place of bears" in Greenlandic), visitors may spot polar bears on the offshore ice floes. The waters also teem with seals and Minke, humpback and fin whales. Visit the Nanortalik Open Air Museum, where you can wander through original colonial buildings and see items from the Inuit culture, Norse ruins and local artifacts.

Days 12 & 13: At Sea.

Day 14: St. Anthony, Newfoundland. Located on the northern tip of Newfoundland, St. Anthony is known for its rugged beauty and rich history. Here you may visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of L'Anse aux Meadows, the only known Viking settlement in North America, where you'll get a glimpse into the Norse history and early exploration of the region. Or, visit the Fishing Point Municipal Park and Lighthouse, where stunning coastal views and rugged landscapes create the perfect photo opportunity. Explore the Grenfell Historic Properties, a testament to the life and work of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, showcasing his medical and humanitarian contributions to the region.

Day 15: St. John's, Newfoundland. This city is one of the oldest in North America. Visit Signal Hill - a Canadian National Historic Site where the first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission was received in 1901. You may also visit Cape Spear Lighthouse: built in 1836 it is the oldest lighthouse in Newfoundland and the most easterly point in North America.

Days 16 & 17: At Sea.

Day 18: Return. We disembark the ship in Boston and transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Panama Canal Cruise (Full Transit)

aboard the Island Princess

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Montreal, or Winnipeg
- Inside Cabin..... \$5597
- Outside Cabin (obstructed view)...... \$5797
- Outside Cabin (clear view)...... \$6397
- Outside Cabin with private balcony.. \$6997
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver add \$90
- Ottawa add \$190 (includes round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Halifax add \$390 (includes an overnight in Toronto en route to LA)

Join a group of friendly Canadians on this exciting journey through the Panama Canal.

By creating artificial lakes and immense lift locks, the Americans performed one of the greatest engineering feats in history, completing the canal in 1914. A canal crossing is memorable. The scenery around this 8th Wonder of the World is lush and tropical and the intricate workings of the locks and sheer immensity of the achievement are awe-inspiring.

We sail from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale aboard the *Island Princess*. Princess Cruises, whose ships are considered among the most beautiful and hospitable, was one of the first cruise lines to traverse the canal. Their ships are luxurious, floating resorts with all the pleasures of a deluxe resort hotel.

16 DAYS • MAY 9 - 24

Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs bring the culture and colours of this region to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate this part of the world.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the stateof-the-art Princess theatres!

* All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.

Day 1: Departure / Los Angeles. We depart for Los Angeles, and upon arrival we transfer to our cruise ship. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner on board, and a chance to get acquainted with our fellow travellers.

Days 2 & 3: At Sea. Time to relax, and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities, and entertainment on board. Visit the health club for a massage or beauty treatment, join an exercise class, line dancing, wine tasting, practice your short game on the putting green, or participate in a game of shuffleboard.

Day 4: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Explore this bustling city with its cobblestoned lanes, red-tiled roofs, and palm covered hills. You may want to spend the afternoon at Bahia de las Banderas with its glistening blue waters and powdery beaches.

Day 5: At Sea.

Day 6: Huatulco, Mexico. Made up of nine bays on the coast of Oaxaca, Huatulco is an unblemished tropical site for rest and relaxation. Tourists can engage in local customs and shop for beautiful native clothes in plazas such as La Nata, located on the main square.

Day 7: At Sea.

Day 8: San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua. Once a sleepy fishing village, San Juan del Sur is now the most popular travel and vacation destination on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, offering a lively mix of local culture and wonderful natural attractions.

Day 9: Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Perched at the tip of a sandy peninsula (its name means "sandy point"), the entire city of Puntarenas is within easy walking distance from the port. The people of this city have a reputation for friendliness and have long welcomed tourists to the sunny beaches that encircle the city.

Day 10: At Sea.

Day 11: Fuerte Amador, Panama. Fuerte Amador, located at the entrance to the Panama Canal, offers a delightful blend of natural beauty and cultural attractions. You may opt to join a tour to Gatun Lake, at the heart of the Panama Canal, which is a marvel of engineering and a natural wonder. Take a boat tour, where you can see massive cargo ships navigating the narrow channels, while surrounded by lush rainforest, and encounter an incredible variety of wildlife, including monkeys, sloths, and exotic birds. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the nearby Biomuseo, a fascinating museum designed by Frank Gehry, which showcases Panama's rich biodiversity and geological history. Wherever the day takes you, Fuerte Amador truly encapsulates the essence of Panama's natural beauty and cultural diversity.

Day 12: Panama Canal - Full Transit. Today we experience the full transit of the Panama Canal. See the immense lift locks raise and lower the passing vessels and great volumes of water rushing by. Enjoy the scenery on either side of the canal with mangrove swamps, tropical plants, trees, and bird life. As we cruise through the canal there is a detailed narration of this colossal undertaking that cost \$367 million in 1914!

Day 13: Cartagena, Colombia. In the 17th century this walled city was a target for every pirate on the high seas. It has many architectural treasures along its narrow streets with Spanish inspired facades and balconies. You may want to take a ride to the top of La Popa Hill for great views of the city, the old fort, and a 17th century monastery. Purchase and take home some of, what is widely considered, the best coffee in the world!

Days 14 & 15: At Sea.

Day 16: Fort Lauderdale / Return. We disembark in Fort Lauderdale and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Canada.

Queen Mary II Trans-Atlantic Cruise plus 3 nights London

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada & British Airways flights
- 7-night cruise, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- 3-nights First Class hotel in London, with breakfast and dinner daily, a city tour, and a pre-booked West End show
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

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- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
- Inside Cabin (Category IC)...... \$6497
- Outside Cabin (Category EF)....\$6997
- Balcony Cabin (Category BY)... \$7397
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above
- Montreal or Ottawa add \$390
- Halifax add \$590
 - * Add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto enroute to New York
- Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$790
- Vancouver add \$1090

Is there anything more glamorous and more relaxing than crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a beautiful ship?

From the early days of cruising, when ship owners competed to have the biggest, best, and fastest floating palaces, the Trans-Atlantic crossing was the benchmark by which to compare.

We will sail in the elegant comfort of Cunard's fabled *Queen Mary 2.* This elaborate 'City at Sea' retains the glamour of old world traditions, combined with contemporary luxury and comfort. Cunard's flagship is the most magnificent ocean liner ever built, and features elegant British styling, a rich history and a wide variety of dining and entertainment options.

Facilities of the *QM2* include a state-of-the-art health spa, supervised fitness and exercise classes, indoor and outdoor pools, a library with a computer learning centre,

11 DAYS • MAY 5 - 15

shopping promenade with a Harrods branch, authentic pub, several bars, night club, 3D Cinema, casino, worldclass entertainers, and of course the Planetarium.

Dining on the *QM2* is wonderful. You may choose the formal splendor of the Brittania Restaurant or the relaxed atmosphere of the King's Court Buffet. Elegant Afternoon Tea is a *QM2* tradition, as well as 24-hour room service.

To begin our adventure we will fly to New York, where we'll embark our luxury cruise ship for the Trans-Atlantic crossing. At the end of the cruise, we'll enjoy a 3-night stay in a First Class, centrally-located hotel in London, "Everybody's Favourite City". In London we'll enjoy a city sightseeing tour and a top-rated West End show. Day 1: Departure / New York / Embarkation. We fly to New York, and upon arrival transfer to our luxury ship. As we sail out of New York, be on deck as we sail past the iconic New York skyline and the Statue of Liberty, and watch as they fade from view. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard, and the only challenge will be deciding what to order.

Days 2 - 7: At Sea. Time to relax and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities and entertainment on board the *QM2*. In addition to attending the ongoing "London Theatre at Sea" events, you can attend a cooking class, wine-tasting, or kick back in the lounge with a good book (or find a new one in the ship's spacious library). Fascinating lectures, get-togethers for like-minded passengers, and invigorating walks on the deck will make the time fly.

Day 8: Southampton / Disembarkation / London. Our cruise ends at Southampton, and from there we'll transfer to our hotel in central London. There will be time at leisure until our dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 9: London. Our panoramic city sightseeing tour will take in many of London's highlights: Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, the Canadian War Memorial, and much more. This evening it's off to London's West End for an early dinner at a restaurant, and then to enjoy a top-rated theatre performance.

Day 10: London. A free day in London to explore the abundance of captivating sights and activities this world-class city has to offer. Stroll along the River Thames to enjoy the breathtaking views of the London Eye and the Shard. Delve into the city's rich history at the British Museum and Tate Modern, then savour the vibrant cultural scene in Covent Garden. Don't miss the charming shopping streets of Notting Hill and Camden Market. A visit to London wouldn't be complete without experiencing its culinary delights, from traditional fish and chips, to global flavours at Borough Market. With its mix of history, culture, and modern highlights, London is an unforgettable place to visit. This evening we'll enjoy our Farewell Dinner together.

Day 11: Return. We transfer to the airport for our flight back to Canada.

British Isles and Ireland Cruise aboard the Regal Princess

plus 2 nights and a tour in London

Storybook castles, historical treasures, sweeping landscapes, iconic cities and welcoming shores: this cruise is a wonderful way to experience Britain and, Ireland - while you have to unpack only once!

In Scotland we will see the awesome rugged landscapes, lochs (lakes) and small stone villages. In Ireland we will admire the grand cliffs, tiny villages and the hills of 50 shades of green. We will also dock in France for an opportunity to see the beaches of Normandy.

We will sail aboard the *Regal Princess*, which features all the amenities of a Deluxe resort hotel, award-winning shore excursions, and fascinating onboard programs that will bring the culture and colours of the British Isles to life.

For dining, we will enjoy freshly prepared cuisine that celebrates the traditions of the British Isles. Entertainment is varied and endless, and includes Broadway-style shows, first-run movies, dancing, and the casino.

Included are 2 nights in a hotel in central London, with breakfast and dinner daily, and a city tour included.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- 2-nights First Class hotel in central London with breakfast and dinner daily, and a city tour
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

Costs below are for the May Cruise August Cruise - add \$700 per person

- Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$290

<u>16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN 2024</u> MAY 13 - 28 AUGUST 17 - SEPTEMBER 1

Cruise Highlights:

- Blarney Castle, and the Blarney Stone
- Lively Georgian Squares of Dublin
- Victorian Belfast
- Natural beauty of Anglesey Island, Wales
- Inveraray Castle, Glasgow
- Scottish Highlands legends and castles
- Edinburgh's Princes Street and Royal Mile
- Beaches of Normandy
- City tour of London
- * All shore excursions are optional and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website or on board the ship.

Day 1: Departure / London. We depart for London

Day 2: London. We arrive in London and transfer to our centrally located hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure until our Welcome Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 3: Southampton / Embarkation. We transfer to Southampton where we board our ship. This evening is our first delicious dinner onboard.

Day 4: At Sea. A day to become acquainted with your fellow passengers, the ship, and all the facilities and activities on board.

Day 5: Cork, Ireland. Today we will have a chance to kiss the famous Blarney Stone, visit Blarney Castle, and stroll along Cork's lively pedestrian shopping street. Optional tours will be offered to see some of Irelands other remarkable landmarks.

Day 6: Dublin, Ireland. A full day to explore Dublin, Ireland's capital. Stroll around the beautiful 18th century Georgian Squares, the 12th century St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Leister House (the Irish Parliament)

Day 7: Belfast, Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland's capital is a beautiful city of imposing Victorian architecture set within picturesque hills. See the Grand Hall, Opera House, and the Stormont Parliament Buildings. You may also want to go visit the Giant's Causeway – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 8: Holyhead, Wales. Located on the beautiful Isle of Anglesey in Wales, Holyhead offers a delightful mix of natural and historical highlights. The stunning South Stack Lighthouse, perched atop dramatic cliffs, is a must-see, offering breathtaking views and a glimpse into maritime history. Nature enthusiasts can explore the enchanting Anglesey Coastal Path, with its rugged coastline and diverse wildlife. For a dose of history, visit the Holyhead Maritime Museum to learn about the town's maritime heritage.

Day 9: Glasgow, Scotland. There are many attractions to see around this great city, including the gothic Glasgow Cathedral, Inveraray Castle and the cottage of poet Robert Burns. **Day 10: At Sea.** A welcome day of rest after many days of sightseeing.

Day 11 (May Cruise): Orkney Islands. These islands offer dramatic landscapes including sea cliffs rising 1000 ft. above the waves, and fine white sand beaches. The islands boast the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites in Europe, including the mysterious Ring of Brodgar and 5000 year old Skara Brae.

Day 11 (August Cruise): Invergordon, Scotland. Welcome to the capital of the Scottish Highlands - gateway to Loch Ness, where we will enjoy the history, beauty, and the legends of the highlands. You may choose to visit the ruins of Dunrobin and Urquhart Castles, or go shopping for tartans and tweeds. Perhaps join an optional tour to Loch Ness for an opportunity to look for Nessie. Have your camera ready in case you have a sighting!

Day 12: Edinburgh, Scotland. There is so much to see and do in Scotland's beautiful capital. Visit Edinburgh Castle which dominates the city, and climb to the top for wonderful views. History comes alive along Princess Street and the Royal Mile, and the parks and gardens are ideal for strolling.

Day 13: At Sea. A day to relax, watch the passing seascape, and enjoy the endless array of activities onboard our ship.

Day 14: Normandy (Le Havre), France. The Beaches of Normandy are home to many World War II landmarks. You will have a chance to visit them or join an optional tour to Paris.

Day 15: London. We disembark in the morning in Southampton and proceed to London for a panoramic sightseeing tour. Highlights include Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Canadian War Memorial, and more. Our tour finishes at our centrally located hotel where we will have some leisure time before enjoying a final dinner together.

Day 16: Return Home. We fly from London back to Canada.

Tulip Time River Cruise

Deluxe cruise on the waterways of Holland and Belgium.

Daily excursions included!

This delightful riverboat cruise program begins and ends in Amsterdam and takes us leisurely through the fairytale beauty of the Dutch and Belgian waterways.

We see fields of vibrant flowers, picture-postcard harbours and quaint historic towns with the local folk dressed in traditional costume. April is Tulip Time in Holland when the tulips, in a blaze of colour, carpet the countryside. The famous Kuekenhof Bulb Gardens has spectacular displays of tulips and other bulb plants.

An added-value feature of this cruise is that all excursions are included and expertly guided in English. Exclusive old world highlights on board include folklore entertainment, lectures, theme dinners, welcome and farewell cocktail receptions and a Captain's Gala dinner.

A big advantage to river cruising is in the central docking facilities at each port of call that makes the disembarkation fast and exploration of each destination quite effortless. And seasickness is never an issue! Our

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Deluxe cruise in outside cabins, all meals (wine included with dinners) and all tipping
- Daily excursions as described
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COSTS:

per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

- *Haydn Deck*\$7297
- Strauss Deck.....\$8397
- Mozart Deck.....\$8797
- Single accommodation on request.
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax add \$190
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver - add \$390

9 DAYS • APRIL 20 - 28

riverboat is the *MS Amadeus Queen*. On this deluxe floating hotel you can relax in the lounge, Panorama Bar or outside on the deck. The ship has a shop, hair salon and offers exercise classes. All meals are included and graciously presented in a smoke-free dining room. Unlimited quality wines from Europe's most famous wine regions are included with every dinner.

Cabins have twin beds, private bathroom (shower only), hairdryer, phone, safe, TV with satellite, in-house video channels and climate control. Cabins on *Haydn Deck* have a panoramic window that cannot be opened. Cabins on the *Strauss* and *Mozart Decks* are larger, with panoramic windows that can be opened, as well as a French balcony.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Tulip Time River Cruise

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Amsterdam with Air Canada.

Day 2: Amsterdam. We arrive in Amsterdam and transfer to our deluxe floating hotel, the *MS Amadeus Queen*. After some time to relax, enjoy a welcome cocktail party reception and our first dinner aboard. The ship is moored near many of Amsterdam's attractions and you may enjoy a stroll around this friendly city.

Day 3: Arnhem. This town was the setting for the WW II book and film "A Bridge Too Far". Almost destroyed during the war, it is now a large modern city. We will drive past various spots associated with the events as described in the book and film. Then we will visit the Airborne Museum, which was a hotel in 1944 and later became the headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division. In the afternoon we will visit the Kröller-Müller Museum, renowned for its large collection of paintings by Vincent van Gogh. The museum also boasts one of the largest sculpture gardens in Europe, featuring impressive sculptures displayed in innovative ways in a beautiful natural setting.

Day 4: Middelburg / Belgium. We dock in Middelburg one of the cities in which the Dutch East India Company flourished in the seventeenth century. This lovely city features historic merchant houses and storefronts lining its canals. This afternoon we see the Delta Works Project, a fascinating display of how the Dutch have tamed their environment. Here we will see and learn about the storm surge barrier: an engineering marvel built after the 1953 flood which inundated the province of Zeeland. Later we stop in the town of Veere - once a prosperous port thanks to wool trade with Scotland. Today, Veere is one of the most picturesque towns in the area. This evening, the ship takes us into Belgium.

Day 5: Ghent and Bruges, Belgium. Our included city tour of Ghent includes fine sights such as St. Bavo Cathedral with its world-famous painting by Jan van Eyck, and the belfry with its bell tower. In the afternoon we proceed to Bruges. Visiting here is like taking a journey back in time, and we will enjoy a city tour.

Day 6: Brussels and Antwerp, Belgium. On our excursion to the Belgian capital Brussels, we will see Heysel Stadium, Notre Dame of Laken, the famous Atomium and the Royal Residence. Then on to the eastern part of the city to see Cinquantenaire Park with its impressive U-shaped buildings, Royal Palace, Palace of Justice, and we'll take a walk through Europe's oldest shopping mall.

In the afternoon we visit Antwerp, one of the world's most important ancient seaports. The city is best known for its diamond trade and as the home of the renowned painter Peter Paul Rubens. Our included city tour will enable us to get to know this beautiful city in some detail.

Day 7: Kinderdijk and Keukenhof Gardens. This morning we discover Holland's largest concentration of working windmills. Then after lunch we will visit the famous and awesome Keukenhof Gardens, with its tulip and daffodil displays, lakes, sculpture gardens, greenhouses and terraces affording views over the 10 acres of gardens and carpets of tulips. Keukenhof offers you the opportunity to see millions of bulbs in flower, fantastic flower shows and the largest sculpture park in the Netherlands.

Tonight is the Captain's Gala Dinner, complete with orchestral music and dancing.

Day 8: Amsterdam / Volendam. Amsterdam is renowned for its museums, flowers and countless bicycles. The city is comprised of 90 islands separated by nearly 50 miles of canals and connected by more than 1,000 bridges. On our morning city tour through the Dutch metropolis we will see the Royal Palace, numerous canals and the Museum Quarter. We will also stop and stroll through the flower market and cruise the water on a canal cruise boat trip. In the afternoon we visit Volendam, one of Holland's most charming places – it looks like a picture postcard of a traditional Dutch town, with people dressed in traditional costumes. Then we drive into the countryside to visit a local cheese farm and learn how Dutch cheese is made. On our way back to the ship we will enjoy a short walk through the quaint village of Edam.

Day 9: Home. We transfer to the Amsterdam airport and fly home with Air Canada.

Fjords of Norway and the Midnight Sun *aboard the Sky Princess* **Plus 2 overnights and a tour in London**

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- 2-nights in a First Class hotel in central London, including breakfast and dinner daily, and a city tour
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal
 - Inside cabin\$8497
 - Outside cabin with Balcony\$10497
 - Deluxe Balcony Cabin\$10997
- 0. 1 0. 1
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Calgary add \$190
- Winnipeg add \$390. Edmonton add \$590.
- Vancouver add \$790

A voyage along Norways's pristine coastline offers some of the most dramatic landscapes and stunning vistas in the world. No wonder it is considered by many to be the "World's Most Beautiful Sea Voyage"!

From the fjord-indented south to the rocky Arctic coastline of Finnmark in the north, this land abounds with natural treasures: thundering waterfalls cascading down steep mountains; towering mountains overlooking ice-blue glaciers; fast flowing rivers teeming with salmon; and countless emerald green fjords. You will experience the sights, sounds, and flavours of Norway's "Midsommar" (Summer Solstice), a natural phenomenon that occurs during the summer that can be likened to a prolonged sunset and sunrise occurring simultaneously.

We will sail in style and luxury aboard the *Sky Princess*, which features all the amenities of a 5-star floating resort. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs will immerse you in the culture and

18 DAYS • JUNE 13 - 30

colours of Norway, while talented chefs take you on a culinary journey. From hand-tossed pizza to dazzling multicourse gourmet dinners, you will enjoy freshly prepared cuisine that celebrates the flavours of Norway.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment, such as lavish Broadway productions with dazzling stage sets and international performers, in the state-of-the-art Princess theatre! For a quieter evening, enjoy a movie on the big screen, or sit on the top deck, gazing at the stars.

Both before and after our wonderful cruise, we will overnight in a centrally-located London hotel, with dinner, breakfast, and a panoramic city tour included.

* All shore excursions are optional and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website or on board the ship.

Itinerary for Fjords of Norway

Day 1: Departure. We depart for London.

Day 2: London. We arrive and transfer to our First Class hotel in central London. This evening we enjoy our Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Southampton / Embarkation. We transfer by coach to Southampton where we board our ship, the *Sky Princess.* This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner on board.

Day 4: At Sea. A wonderful day at sea to relax and get acquainted with the ship and your fellow passengers.

Day 5: Haugesund. This coastal city in southwestern Norway is known for its beautiful scenery and rich blend of historical, cultural, and natural attractions. You may want to join an optional excursion, such as a journey back in time to the middle-ages, where you can visit a Viking village and explore the royal estate of Norway's first king, Harald Fairhair.

Day 6: Flamm. This quaint village situated along the Aurlandsfjord is renowned for its picturesque surroundings and natural beauty, including cascading waterfalls and lush-green mountains. For an unforgettable experience, consider an optional excursion aboard the Flamm Railway, and sit in comfort as you watch some of the world's most exquisite scenery pass by!

Day 7: Hellesylt / Geiranger. Hellesylt is a charming, scenic village, and gateway to the natural wonders of the Geiranger Fjord. Geiranger is a narrow fjord surrounded by towering mountains and magnificent waterfalls, and is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful places in the world (which is why it is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site). The ship's optional excursions include an exciting trip up Mount Dalsnibba, which offers a spectacular view of Geirangerfjord.

Days 8 & 9: At Sea. A day to enjoy the endless array of facilities and activities aboard our ship.

Day 10: Honningsvag (North Cape). This is the last town south of Norway's mysterious North Cape, beyond which lie only icy waters before one reaches the North Pole. This expanse of wilderness is marred by nothing save an occasional herd of reindeer. The North Cape experiences the Midnight Sun, which creates round-the-clock daylight from May to the beginning of August. **Day 11: At Sea.** A day to relax after our many days of sightseeing, or enjoy the world of exciting activities on board our ship, from cooking demonstrations to dance contests, and wine tasting.

Day 12: Trondheim. Two of Norway's greatest landmarks, the Nidaros Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace, are located here in Norway's first capital. Despite being Norway's 3rd-largest city, wild animals can be seen: otters and beavers thrive, and foxes, moose and deer are not uncommon sights.

Day 13: Alesund. This beautiful port town was destroyed by a massive fire in 1904, and then rebuilt in Art Nouveau style. Enjoy a walk in the city centre, where buildings with elegant turrets and spires line the streets.

Day 14: Olden. We cruise the waters of the Nordfjord and visit the village of Olden. Here you may take a boat trip on the stunning blue-green waters of Lake Lovatnet, where you may view the mountain waterfalls and gaze in awe at, or even hike, the Jostedalsbreen Glacier - a remnant of the last Ice Age. Or, visit the Jostedalsbreen National Park Center, which features educational exhibits and 3D models of the park's glacial flows.

Day 15: At Sea.

Day 16: Brussels / Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium.

Zeebrugge port serves as the base for exploring either Bruges or Brussels. Bruges is one of Europe's most wellpreserved cities, with its city centre designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is famous for its charming narrow-cobbled streets, winding alongside scenic canals, earning its nickname "Venice of the North". Brussels, the capitol of Belgium, is known for its historical architecture, delicious cuisine, and chocolate! This evening we enjoy the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 17: London. We disembark in Southampton and proceed to London, where we enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour. Highlights include Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Canadian War Memorial, and much more. Our tour finishes at our centrally-located hotel, where we will have some time at leisure before our Farewell Dinner.

Day 18: Home. We fly home with Air Canada.

Mediterranean Cruise aboard the Sun Princess

plus overnights in Athens and Rome

Join us on this unforgettable journey as we enjoy 14 glorious days of cruising on the Mediterranean Sea, stopping in 9 of the most fascinating ports of call.

We will cruise in style aboard the *Sun Princess*, which features all the amenities of a Deluxe floating resort hotel. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and wonderful onboard programs will immerse you in the culture and colours of each port, while talented chefs take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes celebrating the varied cuisine of the Mediterranean.

Take in some of the finest in cruise ship entertainment, such as Broadway-style productions with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess Theatre. For a quieter evening, enjoy a movie on the big screen, or enjoy some star gazing on the top deck.

Prior to the cruise we'll overnight in Athens, with dinner at a taverna in the lively Plaka district. After the cruise, we'll overnight in Rome and enjoy a tour of Rome's highlights.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 14-night cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- 2 nights in First Class hotels (in Athens and Rome), including breakfast and dinner at each hotel, plus a lunch and city tour in Rome
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal
 - Inside Cabin \$8297
 - Outside Cabin \$8997
- Deluxe balcony cabin..... \$10397
-
- Single Supplement add 50% to costs above
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Winnipeg add \$290
- Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton add \$590

18 DAYS • MAY 23 - JUNE 9

Cruise Highlights

- Dinner in a taverna in Athens' lively Plaka district
- Beautiful fjords and towering cliffs of Montenegro
- The stunning coastline of breathtaking Corfu
- The view of the imposing Mount Etna in Sicily
- The historic centres of Naples and Genoa both UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- The bustling Ramblas' and Gaudi's works in Barcelona
- The Moorish Castle and British character of Gibraltar
- The rich maritime history of Marseille
- Tuscany visit Florence, Pisa, or Cinque Terre
- Included city tour of Rome's highlights
- * All shore excursions are optional and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website or on board the ship.

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Athens, direct from Toronto.

Day 2: Athens. We arrive in Athens and transfer to our hotel. This evening, we will have our Welcome Dinner at a lively taverna in the Plaka district.

Day 3: Embarkation / *The Sun Princess.* After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the cruise port and board the *Sun Princess* to begin our exciting adventure! This evening we'll enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard.

Day 4: At Sea. A day to become acquainted with the facilities and activities on board our ship, and to become further acquainted with our fellow passengers.

Day 5: Kotor, Montenegro. Nestled at the head of Boka Bay, Kotor is Southern Europe's longest fjord, bordered by towering cliffs. Its medieval streets wind past ancient houses, palaces, and churches, dating back to the 12th century.

Day 6: Corfu. This lush island, situated in the Ionian Sea between Greece and Italy, boasts a rich history with a colourful blend of medieval and modern influences. Enjoy a stroll through the maze of cobblestone streets in town, explore the ancient fortress, or join an optional excursion.

Day 7: Sicily (Messina), Italy. Founded as a Greek colony in the 8th century BC, Messina has played a major part in history by being home to the Mediterranean's largest natural harbour. Walk to the central Piazza del Duomo to explore the shops and cafés, and admire the 100-year-old Astronomical Clock. Optional excursions will be offered to the infamous Mount Etna, to the picturesque town of Taormina, or for fans of Coppola's trilogy, there's the Godfather Tour.

Day 8: Naples, Italy. This bustling metropolis is Italy's third largest city. Stroll the streets of its historic centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), or opt for an excursion to the world-renowned Amalfi Coast or Pompeii.

Day 9: At Sea. A day to enjoy the many pleasures of our cruise ship. Pamper yourself in the spa, browse the boutiques, partake in afternoon tea, or just curl up in your deck chair with a good book - a time-honoured seafaring tradition!

Day 10: Barcelona, Spain. Hailed as one of Europe's gems, Barcelona is a vibrant city that seamlessly blends culture and commerce. Wander along the wide, tree-lined promenade of Las Ramblas', and marvel at the spires of Gaudi's breathtaking Basilica La Sagrada Familia. You can also visit the former Olympic Ring on the hill of Montjuic, known for its parks, fountains, and museums.

Day 11: At Sea. A day to enjoy all the ship has to offer.

Day 12: Gibraltar. This British Overseas Territory is dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar, a 426m-high limestone ridge. The island's history dates back to the Moorish age, where it was later ruled by the Spaniards and then ceded to Britain in 1713. The fortifications of the 14th-century Moorish Castle, and 18th-century Great Siege Tunnels are truly remarkable. Gibraltar is a charming place to stroll the narrow streets, shop, or have a beer and fish and chips.

Day 13: At Sea. Relax and enjoy all the activities and entertainment on board our ship. Visit the health club for a massage, join an exercise class, wine tasting, or practice your game on the putting green.

Day 14: Marseille, France. France's second-largest city and the largest port in the Mediterranean, Marseille has a rich maritime history, charming neighborhoods, and an impressive esplanade with breathtaking sea views. As your gateway to Provence, you may consider joining an optional tour to Avignon or Arles.

Day 15: Genoa, Italy. Genoa, often referred to as 'La Superba' (The Proud), is a city regarded as having the largest historic centre in Europe - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wind your way through the narrow cobblestone streets, while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere.

Day 16: Florence / Pisa (La Spezia), Italy. Nestled between two regions, La Spezia, once a quaint fishing village, provides convenient access to the region of Tuscany, including Florence and Pisa, as well as Liguria's rugged coast and the terraced villages of Cinque Terre. Optional excursions include a trip to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Statue of David, or a full-day tour to Cinque Terre.

Day 17: Rome, Italy. We disembark the ship at the port of Civitavecchia, and proceed to Rome, famously referred to as 'La Citta Eterna' - the Eternal City. We'll enjoy an included guided tour of Rome, including the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain, as well as a 3-course lunch, with wine, at a local restaurant. This evening we will enjoy our Farewell Dinner.

Day 18: Return Home. We fly back to Canada from Rome.

Blue Danube River Cruise

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- First Class cruise in outside cabins, including all meals (unlimited wine with all dinners)
- 3-nights First Class accommodation in Prague, with breakfast and dinner daily
- All excursions as described
- All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3

COST:

per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

- *Haydn Deck*\$8997
- Strauss Deck.....\$9997
- *Mozart Deck.....*\$10397
- Single accommodation on request
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax add \$190
- Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton add \$390

- First Class Riverboat Cruise
- 3 nights with touring in Prague
- Many shore excursions included!

We begin this delightful holiday with 3 nights in the "Golden City" of Prague. The Czech capital is one of Europe's most beautiful cities, with soaring cathedrals and lavish palaces. It is also known for its lively squares which give the city a festive air.

After Prague we embark on a 7-night deluxe riverboat cruise to some of the most interesting cities and sites along the storied Danube River. As we pass through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary we are taking a journey through history, as many of Europe's greatest cities sit on the shores of the Danube.

Our riverboat, the *Amadeus Imperial*, is a modern ship specially built for cruising European rivers, combining the luxuries of a 5-star hotel with innovative design and First Class service.

12 DAYS • MAY 31 - JUNE 11

You will enjoy superb dining throughout the cruise with special theme dinners. As a bonus, quality wines from Europe's most famous wine regions are included with every dinner. The nightly entertainment features folkloric shows, and informative lectures on our destinations.

The *Sun Deck* invites you to relax outdoors, while offering breathtaking views of the passing river landscapes. There is also a fitness room, complimentary use of onboard bicycles, and Café Vienna, which offers a variety of authentic Viennese coffee-time specialties. To round out your experience, many shore excursions are included and expertly conducted by English speaking guides.

Cabins on *Haydn Deck* have a panoramic window that cannot be opened. Cabins on the *Strauss* and *Mozart Decks* are larger, with panoramic windows that can be opened.

* Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.

Itinerary for Blue Danube River Cruise

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Prague, via Frankfurt.

Day 2: Prague. We arrive in Prague and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to start exploring this beautiful city. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Prague. Our city tour reveals why Prague is one of Europe's most popular cities. During our tour we'll visit the 1,000 year old Prague Castle and St. Vitus, before walking over the Charles Bridge to the Old Market Square. Afternoon at leisure to mix with the locals at Wenceslas Square or enjoy an outdoor café. This evening we enjoy a Folklore Dinner Show.

Day 4: Prague. At leisure to stroll along the Vlatava River, relax at an outdoor café, or shop for local handicrafts.

Day 5: Prague / Pilzen / Embarkation. We depart Prague and stop in Pilzen, best known for producing Pilsner beer - a pale gold lager. After some free time to explore this lovely town, we enjoy a scenic drive through pastoral countryside to Passau, where we embark our luxurious cruise ship. Later we enjoy a Welcome Cocktail Reception and our first delicious dinner on board.

Day 6: Regensburg. Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. with architectural treasures including churches, monasteries, the town hall, and one of Europe's oldest bridges that has spanned the Danube since the 12th century. During our walking tour we'll sense the former power and wealth of this city, which once controlled the trade route to the Orient. Included is a guided visit to the beautiful and historic 18th century Thurn and Taxis Palace, with its impressive marble staircase and magnificent rooms. After our visit, we'll visit a traditional brewery for a sampling of the local beer and Bavarian pretzels.

Day 7: Passau / Linz. This morning we'll stop at the beautiful 3-rivers city of Passau, and enjoy a guided walk through the old city. Passau is known as "Little Venice", with its rivers, bridges, and winding streets. A highlight here is the famous baroque cathedral of St. Stephens, with its gothic soul and impressive pipe organ. There will be free time to explore the largest fortress complex in Europe - the Veste Oberhause.

Day 8: Emmersdorf / Durnstein / Vienna. This morning we'll visit Melk Abby - one of the world's most famous monastic sites. This Baroque jewel is filled with beautiful frescoes

and priceless manuscripts. In the afternoon, we'll visit Durnstein, one of the most beautiful towns in the Wachau Valley. It features breathtaking scenery and architecture, as well as numerous historic sights. On our walking tour we'll explore the old town and the city walls, and enjoy the beautiful views of the castle and surroundings from the Prager Platz. We'll also walk along the Clarissan Monastery to the Baroque Canon's Abbey, to explore the abbey and take in the breathtaking view from the Danube terrace underneath the iconic blue tower.

Day 9: Vienna / Classical Music Concert. On our guided city tour of Vienna we'll drive along the famous Ringstrasse, passing several magnificent buildings like the stunning opera house, the Parliament, the Court Theatre, and Vienna's imposing city hall. Then we'll enjoy a guided walk through the city center and see the famous Hofburg Imperial Palace, the Kohl market and iconic St. Stephen's Cathedral. This evening we enjoy a classical music concert in the very place that Johann Strauss once directed his orchestra. The concert features waltzes, polkas, arias, operettas, and piano concert melodies. Top-rate opera singers and ballet dancers are also featured.

Day 10: Bratislava. The gorgeous old town of Bratislava has maintained its Gothic-Baroque style. We will see the Grassalkovich Palace and continue up the hill for a stunning, panoramic view of the city and surrounding areas. Afterwards, we will have a guided walking tour through the restored old town and see the Primatial Palace, St. Martin's Cathedral - a former coronation cathedral for Hungarian kings, the Academia Istropolitana - city's oldest university dating back to the 15th century, the main square with the old City Hall, the Opera House, and Maximilian Fountain.

Day 11: Budapest. Budapest, the "Queen of the Danube", is one of the world's most beautiful cities. The Danube flows through the heart of the city, dividing it into two parts: Buda and Pest. Our guided tour takes us past the Great Market Hall with its outstanding gourmet shops and stalls, the Baroque buildings of the Hungarian State Opera, the Parliament building, Hero's Square, St. Matthew's Church, and Fisherman's Bastion. This evening we enjoy the Captain's Gala Dinner.

Day 12: Disembarkation / Home. We transfer to the airport for our flight home, via Frankfurt.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read this page carefully before booking your Senior Discovery Tours (SDT) holiday.

• SDT acts solely as agent between the passenger and supplier for providing services as described in the brochure. SDT will not assume **responsibility** for any claims, damages or expenses arising from situations beyond our control.

• All itineraries are "tentative". While we make every effort to follow the original itinerary, we may make changes to improve the tour, or for reasons beyond our control. If any component of a tour cannot be honoured by the contracted supplier, SDT will make every effort to provide a **comparable alternative**, however no liability should be inferred from these efforts.

• Please read the details of your insurance coverage carefully. If you have a **pre-existing condition** please inquire about your insurance validity at time of booking.

• Those who choose to decline our comprehensive insurance package will be issued a rebate on their tour cost, the amount to be informed by your Tour Consultant. The following schedule of cancellation fees applies to you (and your travelling companion) only if you have declined our insurance package, or if you cancel a tour for a reason not covered in our insurance package (applies to tours without a cruise portion. Cruise penalties may vary).

- Cancel 61 days or more prior to departure: \$75 admin. fee
- Cancel 60 days to 31 days prior: 25% of tour cost
- Cancel 30 days to 8 days prior: 50% of tour cost
- Cancel 7 days or less prior: 100% of tour cost

• Our cancellation insurance policy does not include **"upgrade** to single accommodation" in case your partner cancels. In this case you may either pay the single supplement and travel as a single (space permitting), or cancel the tour and receive a full refund, less the \$75 administration fee, (assuming the cancellation is for a reason covered by our cancellation insurance policy). Also, while our cancellation insurance policy covers the partner of a person cancelling, it does not cover their friends who are not sharing accommodation with the cancelling party. If you must cancel your tour you must notify us within 48 hours of learning that you are unable to travel, otherwise the cancellation insurance policy is null and void.

• If a **tour is cancelled** for any reason our liability is limited to your full refund. No tours will be cancelled due to **international events**, unless the government specifically advises not to travel to your specific destination.

• We are unable to refund those who do not participate in any **included meals or excursions,** as they are all prepaid.

• All **gratuities** are included for all services provided in our tour package. For extra services such as optional excursions, meals on your own, room service and any exceptional services, tipping is at your discretion. If you wish to show appreciation to your Tour Manager please do so on an individual basis - collections are not permitted!

 Please be advised that there may be different standards in utilities, services and accommodations outside Canada. Our classifications for accommodation are made in terms of local standards. Please note that outside North America coffee, tea and drinking water are generally not included with lunch or dinner. All rooms are non-smoking.

Single travellers must pay a supplement due to hotel charges. However this does not imply that they will necessarily be assigned a room as large as those assigned to two people sharing. We can often team up those without a partner!
 Senior Discovery Tours

• **Passports** are required for travel outside of Canada, and must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of your expected return to Canada.

• Luggage handling is included wherever possible, however in some situations it does not exist - especially when removing your luggage from airport carousels. You should be capable of handling your luggage in such situations. Luggage carts are generally available at all airports worldwide.

• Flight schedule changes are beyond our control. We are therefore occasionally forced to change airlines, and/or routings, and/or date of travel for your benefit. In such cases we provide as much notice as possible, and do everything possible to ensure your convenience and comfort. Should a schedule change result in an unplanned overnight enroute to or from your destination, the cost will be borne by the traveller.

• SDT will attempt to accommodate **special requests** by notifying the suppliers in writing, however we cannot guarantee that requests such as room locations or meal requirements for flights or hotels will be adhered to by our suppliers, and therefore we cannot be held responsible. **Please note that advance seat selection for flights on our group tours is not permitted**, as per the conditions of our

contract with the airlines. Sea view or pool view rooms are not guaranteed unless specifically noted in our brochure.

• On cruises - all shore excursions are optional, and are paid for on board the ship, unless stated otherwise in our brochure. Our local tour operators may also offer optional excursions (sometimes on a cash-only basis). While we do our best to monitor their quality, SDT is not responsible for the operation or costing of these optional excursions.

• Our tours are designed for those who are **physically fit**. Tour members must be able to walk fairly long distances at a reasonable pace and climb stairs easily. Our tours are not suitable for those requiring wheel chairs or walkers. If you have walking limitations, we recommend a cruise on which the excursions are optional. If you are concerned about your physical ability to join a tour, please discuss which of our tours is suitable for your activity level with one of our travel experts.

• SDT supports **an environment of respect** toward our staff and clients. Harassment or abuse of any kind will not be tolerated. Our Code of Conduct can be found on our website.

• If you join a tour beyond your physical or cognitive ability, or if you do not abide by our Code of Conduct, SDT reserves the right to send you home, at your own cost and with no refund for unused services. We reserve the right to decline anybody as a tour member at any time for any reason at our sole discretion.

• Generally you will receive your **tour documents** 7 to 10 days prior to departure, unless we are held up by a supplier providing documentation, in which case you may not receive them until closer to departure.

• You may buy our tours on a "land only" basis and **arrange** your own flights - an air rebate will be applied. If you book your own flights, home pick-up and drop-off is not included. If you book different flights from the rest of the group, arrival / departure airport transfers at the destination are not included. If you book your own flights, please protect yourself with cancellation insurance as we cannot be held responsible for schedule changes, or if a tour is cancelled for any reason.

• You may not make any **changes to your flight arrangements** after the final payment due date.

• There may be occasions in which the **flight portion** of your SDT holiday is **unescorted.**

• All of our tours are conducted in English only. Reg.#2160711

We do group travel differently – that's why travellers love us

Wherever in the world you wish to explore, we look forward to welcoming you aboard soon on one of our exciting, value-added, and carefully planned group tours.

Eight ways we make your journey better

- 1 All flights, hotels, and most excursions are included: plus, all transfers, taxes, and tipping!
- 2 **Carefully selected hotels:** we personally inspect each property for quality, service, and value.
- **3 Most meals are covered:** and they are delicious ones too, allowing you to sample the best of local cuisine.
- Exceptional Tour Managers: who go above and beyond to make sure that everyone has a wonderful experience

 and each day's activities are at just the right pace.
- 5 Round-trip transportation right from your doorstep to the airport: and safely back home again (from most Canadian cities).
- 6 Health and cancellation insurance: yes, we take care of that too, so you can travel carefree.
- 7 More than 100 destinations worldwide: endless choices for your next journey!
- 8 Tour types to suit everyone: we offer a wide range of tour styles, including stay-put relaxed vacations, two or three centre holidays, rail journeys, walking tours and cruises.



Very impressed with your tour manager.

Our tour to Sicily was wonderful. The planning and general arrangements

were well thought out – and David the tour manager's unfailing unflappable good humour, patience and flexibility made it a very special holiday! – Ann and Louis, AB



They even picked me up at home!

When I returned home from my beautiful tour to California I was

directed to a car and driven home. It couldn't have been easier. Love it! - Celine, QC



Our trip was more than we ever expected!

We just returned from an incredible tour to Southeast Asia – better than

we ever expected. The hotels were exceptional, the excursions fascinating – and the guides were entertaining and made sure everyone was well taken care of. – Grant and Barb, ON

LOCATIONS

TORONTO 225 Eglinton Ave. West M4R 1A9 416.322.1500

OTTAWA 392 Richmond Road K2A OE8 613.722.9400

LONDON 649 Colborne St. Suite 201 N6A 3Z2 519.433.2300

CALGARY 215-11012 Macleod Trail S.E. T2J 6A5 403.225.2900

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At Senior Discovery Tours, we know how to make great travel experiences happen. For nearly 50 years, we've been Canada's largest and most trusted operator of escorted tours for travellers over 55 – offering trips to more than 100 destinations worldwide. Wherever you yearn to explore – and whatever your tour style (from walking adventures to stay put holidays) – we can take you there!

Call us at 1-800-268-3492 and one of our travel experts will be happy to answer your questions and help you choose a tour.

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