

# ***EUROPE COACH TOUR & MED CRUISE***



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Explore Europe & Mediterranean with Flights

Duration: 20 days

Stay: 11 nights hotels, 7 nights MSC cruise, 1 overnight flight

Travel style: Escorted tour & cruise with flights from Australia

Booking code: ETMCR20M

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# 20 Days Europe Tour & Mediterranean Cruise with Flights

## About the holiday

This magical itinerary takes you on a spectacular journey through 7 countries by a combination of coach and cruise.

Fly to Rome where the European tour begins and takes you on an unforgettable adventure through bucket-list destinations and hidden gems. Get ready for the world-famous canals of Venice and enjoy dinner in a traditional Munich beer hall. Relax as you cruise the Rhine River and the waterways of Amsterdam. Try an authentic Belgian waffle and see the iconic landmarks of Paris. Spend time surrounded by the picturesque peaks of the Swiss Alps and travel to scenic Lake Como. Snap that shot of you 'holding up' the Leaning Tower of Pisa, enjoy a guided walking tour of Florence and discover the gastronomic delights of Tuscany.

After indulging in delicious cuisines, uncovering ancient sites and experiencing colourful cultures on the amazing European coach tour, it's time to set off on the next leg of the journey. Board magnificent *MSC Seaview* for a sublime voyage to Palma de Mallorca and Barcelona in Spain, then Cannes on France's famous Cote d'Azur. Other ports include Genoa, to explore Portofino, and La Spezia for Italy's stunning Cinque Terre. After a wonderful MSC cruise experience, the 7-night voyage returns to Rome for your flights back to Australia.

## Why you'll love this trip...

- What a sensational journey through seven legendary countries
- Italy, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain
- Expert guides escort you to Venice, Innsbruck, Amsterdam, Burgundy & more
- Enjoy free days to explore Rome, Paris and the Swiss Alps
- Join a 7-night Mediterranean cruise aboard magnificent *MSC Seaview*
- This trip is unbeatable value, with flights from Australia included!

## Travel dates

**2024** - Departs Australia on select dates from March to November

*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date. Contact us for travel at other times of the year.*

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## **Tour & Cruise package includes:**

**Flights** - Return economy airfares to Rome

Fly from Australian capital cities with luggage included (*prices may vary*)

**Tour** - 12-day fully-guided tour from Rome

Tour leader will accompany group throughout & manage all logistical details

Touring in modern coaches with reclining seats & toilet on board

Any public transport used as part of the tour (excludes free days)

Sightseeing with entrance fees included, as per itinerary

**Tour hotels** - 11 nights 2- to 4-star hotels with private en-suite facilities, twin share

*Single travellers have the option to pay a single supplement for private rooms*

**Meals** - On tour: 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners

All meals included on the cruise ship

**Cruise** - 7 nights The Best of the Med cruise, round-trip from Rome

Choice of cabin aboard MSC Seaview

All non-chargeable entertainment on board the ship

## **Package excludes:**

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours, activities & shore excursions

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Cruise gratuities

Tipping for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

***Subject to confirmation by airlines, cruise line, hotels, tour company & local operators.***

***Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.***

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## Highlights & experiences:

- See the sights of Venice on an orientation tour
- Enjoy a scenic mountain drive through Brenner Pass
- Visit the beautiful Austrian city of Innsbruck
- See the restored Munich city centre on an orientation tour
- Say “prost!” at an authentic German Beer Hall
- Admire the scenery on a Rhine River cruise
- Taste local wines in the Rhine Valley
- See the iconic Riekermolen windmill
- Enjoy a traditional cheese and clogs demonstration
- Cruise along the Amsterdam canals
- Visit Ghent; a medieval Belgian city
- See iconic landmarks on a driving tour of Paris
- Visit Burgundy; a stunning French winemaking region
- Enjoy a scenic mountain drive through the Swiss Alps
- Visit the picturesque Lake Como
- Get a photo by the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Explore Florence; the birthplace of the Renaissance
- Enjoy full days in port to explore Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona and Cannes
- Continue your Italian discovery in the coastal cities of Genoa and La Spezia

## Itinerary:

### **DAY 1: Depart Australia for Italy**

### **DAY 2: Arrive Italy**

Arrive in Rome catch a taxi to hotel and overnight for 1-night pre tour. The remainder of the day is free to explore the Italian capital city.

### **DAY 3: Start of tour in Rome - Venice**

Welcome to the Europe Highlights tour! Leave Rome this morning and head to the city of canals and gondolas. Vineyards and orchards flash in front of a majestic mountain backdrop as the coach drives. The diversity of the Italian landscapes will continue to impress. And then...Venice! Arrive and embark on an orientation walk with your tour leader. See the world-famous St. Mark's Square, Grand Canal and Rialto Bridge. The evening is free to explore. Be sure to sample local cuisine at one of the many bars and restaurants! Later, why not take a gondola ride on the iconic canals and admire the sights from the water?

## **Included Experiences**

**Orientation tour of Venice:** Your tour leader will take the group into the heart of this unique floating city for an orientation walking tour. See highlights such as St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark's Museum, Campanile, Doge's Palace, Rialto Market and Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

## **Optional On Tour Excursions**

### **Venice Water Taxi**

See Venice from the water in comfort and style as you cruise along Venice's famous Grand Canal in a classic water taxi and see the main sights!

**Approximately € 25**

### **Venice Gondola Ride**

No visit to Venice is complete without a traditional gondola ride! Experience an ancient Venice tradition as you cruise the city's famous canals.

**Approximately € 25**

## **DAY 4: Innsbruck - Munich - Bavaria Region**

*Arrivederci*, for now Italy! Heading north toward Germany this morning, encounter some of the most beautiful countryside in central Europe. Admire the breathtaking Brenner Pass as the tour makes its way to Austria. Stop in Innsbruck, famous for its dramatic mountain backdrop. Enjoy an orientation tour and some free time to explore. Arriving in Munich in the afternoon, embark on an orientation tour of the city centre. With much of the city restored after WW2, the modern and ancient history of Munich is fascinating, and the effort to rebuild the German city is gilded with respect. Munich hosts the world's most famous beer festival - Oktoberfest! Get a taste this evening with dinner and beer in a traditional beer hall. *Prost!*

## **Included Experiences**

**Scenic mountain drive through Brenner Pass:** Cross spectacular mountain passes and experience some truly amazing mountain vistas.

**Visit Innsbruck:** Enjoy a comfort stop and orientation tour of this beautiful Austrian city that lies in a valley between high mountains, making for an incredible backdrop.

**Munich orientation tour:** Your tour leader will take the group on an orientation tour of Munich, the capital and largest city of the German state of Bavaria. See Karlsplatz and Marienplatz, New Town Hall, Church of our Lady, and (if visiting in winter) the traditional German Christmas markets.

**German beer hall:** Tonight, visit a traditional German Beer Hall. Sample German beer, along with traditional German cuisine. *Prost!*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 5: Munich - Rhine Valley

The German adventure continues, as the tour heads to one of the most picturesque sections of the Rhine River. Arrive in the Rhine Valley and relax onboard a Rhine riverboat as it travels into the heart of this region. This is the most concentrated stretch of castles in all of Europe. It also features vineyards, charming medieval towns and lofty cliffs. Learn more about the castles, many of which are in ruins. Afterwards, visit a local wine merchant for a wine tasting. If the harvest has been good, try *eiswein* (ice wine), a sweet wine that is produced in very small quantities as it can only be harvested when the temperature drops below freezing!

### Included Experiences

**Rhine River Cruise:** Cruise down the Rhine and see the beautiful scenery and the largest concentration of Gothic castles (Sterrenberg, Liebestein, Katz and Fortress Rheinfels) in Europe.

**Rhine Valley wine tasting:** Visit a local wine merchant in one of Germany's most famous wine-growing regions, and sample several types of delicious German wine. Popular varieties include Riesling, Spätburgunder and Pinot Noir. The region is also well known for *eiswein* (ice wine), a very sweet dessert wine made from grapes harvested in the freezing winter months.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 6: Rhine Valley - Amsterdam

This morning, say *auf wiedersehen* to Germany, and continue into the Netherlands. En route to Amsterdam, travel through the beautiful Dutch countryside and enjoy a photo stop at the iconic Riekmolen windmill. Then, indulge in a cheese and clog-making display - and sample some delicious local cheeses! Arrive in Amsterdam in the afternoon and enjoy some free time to explore and soak up the city's buzzing atmosphere. Later, embark on a twilight canal cruise. Gain an alternative perspective of this eclectic and bohemian city whilst drifting past famous landmarks. Afterwards, look forward to an included dinner at a local restaurant.

### Included Experiences

**See the iconic Riekmolen windmill:** No visit to the Netherlands is complete without some fun photos at the iconic Dutch windmills! See the Riekmolen windmill and snap some memorable photos.

**Cheese and clogs demonstration:** See how these famous shoes are traditionally made by hand and taste some fantastic cheeses. Take this opportunity to shop and stock up on unique Dutch souvenirs.

**Cruise along the Amsterdam canals:** Sail along Amsterdam's stunning canals at twilight and see the iconic sights that sit along the waterside - this is a perfect, relaxing introduction to Amsterdam!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 7: Amsterdam - Ghent - Paris**

Today, say *vaarwel* to the Netherlands and head to the Belgian city of Ghent. This picturesque port city is a cultural hub, and is known for its medieval architecture, which is remarkably well-preserved. See some top sights on an orientation tour and then enjoy free time for lunch. Be sure to try an authentic Belgian waffle! Leaving Ghent behind, the tour makes its way to Paris, the 'City of Lights'! Embark on a driving tour of the French capital; get your cameras ready for some of the city's most treasured landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe! After the driving tour, enjoy dinner with the group at a restaurant in the city.

#### **Included Experiences**

**Visit Ghent:** The port city of Ghent lies where the Scheldt and Leie rivers meet. This university town is known for its medieval architecture and is a cultural hub. See some top sights on an orientation tour and enjoy free time for lunch.

**Driving tour of Paris:** Enjoy a driving tour upon arrival - spot the Tuileries Gardens, The River Seine, l'Île de la Cité, the Louvre Museum, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Lovers Bridge, Sacré-Coeur, Montmartre, Pigalle (the Red Light District) and the Moulin Rouge!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 8: Paris: Free Day**

The wonderful thing about Paris is that there is so much to experience, regardless of the time of day, or season. Enjoy a full free day to explore all this magical city has to offer. Wander its fascinating streets, sample local cuisine (escargot, anyone?) or simply relax in one of the city's lovely parks. Alternatively, join the Paris+ optional excursion for a guided day full of unique Parisian experiences. These include a macaron tasting, a visit to a famous parfumerie, a lunch cruise along the River Seine and much more! This evening, choose to explore the stunning Montmartre neighbourhood and watch an exciting cabaret show!

**Meals:** Breakfast

## Optional On Tour Excursions

### Paris+

Spend the day ticking off Parisian highlights! Today includes top attractions, macarons, perfume, a River Seine Cruise and much more.

**Approximately € 60**

### An Evening in Montmartre

Explore the vibrant Montmartre neighbourhood by night! See the Moulin Rouge and the Sacré-Cœur basilica and indulge in a three-course French dinner.

**Approximately € 45**

### Parisian Cabaret with drinks

Be amazed by colours, costumes and cancan at one of Paris' top cabaret venues!

**Approximately € 85**

## DAY 9: Paris - Burgundy - Swiss Alps

*Au revoir* Paris! Today, get a taste of small-town France with a lunch stop in Burgundy. In the town of Beaune, visit the beautiful Hospices de Beaune or try the region's famous wine! After free time for lunch, take a scenic drive across the border into Switzerland. Welcome to the Swiss Alps, home for the next two nights! Leaving bustling cities behind, look forward to being completely surrounded by nature's beauty. Turn in any direction and see snow-capped peaks, clear-blue lakes and perfect hiking trails. Breathe in the fresh air and make the most of the time in this idyllic place. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight.

### Included Experiences

**Visit Burgundy:** Enjoy a stop in Beaune, a UNESCO World Heritage site and famous wine-producing region. Enjoy some free time to explore this beautiful medieval town centre and the opportunity to try local food and wine.

**Scenic Swiss mountain drive:** Look forward to spectacular views as the coach drives through mountain passes and alongside lakes, breathtaking mountain vistas and quaint Swiss towns.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 10: Swiss Alps: Free Day

The Swiss Alps have some of the highest peaks in the world! Surrounded by these peaks and glaciers, take the opportunity to feel on top of the world at Jungfrauoch on this free day! Join this popular optional excursion and take a train or gondola to "the top of Europe" for magnificent mountain vistas. Admire picture-perfect beauty all around, play in the year-round snow and look forward to endless photo opportunities.



For those wishing to spend their free day exploring the local sights, wander through the villages and breathe in that crisp, fresh, Alpine air! Why not warm up this evening with a delicious Swiss fondue dinner?

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **Optional On Tour Excursions**

#### **Jungfrauoch: Journey to the Top of Europe**

Travel to the “Top of Europe” - Jungfrauoch, the highest train station in Europe! Enjoy exceptional views, year-round snow and a magical ice palace.

**Approximately € 195**

#### **Swiss Fondue Dinner**

Get an authentic taste of Switzerland and warm up with an authentic Swiss fondue dinner! Is there anything better than a pot of melted cheese?

**Approximately € 40**

### **DAY 11: Swiss Alps - Lake Como - Pisa - Tuscany**

Today, leave the Swiss Alps and head back towards Italy, stopping for lunch at the famous Lake Como. An enormous expanse of water fringed by picturesque scattered villages, it's perhaps not surprising that one of the villages, Laglio, is where George Clooney has a luxurious villa. Next stop, Pisa! Capture iconic shots at the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. A World Heritage UNESCO Site, the Leaning Tower is visited by tourists from every corner of the globe and is one of the most popular cultural European landmarks. Then, it's onwards to the exquisite Tuscan region - famous for wine, food, art and architecture. Settle in Montecatini Terme and join tonight's optional excursion to fully experience this gorgeous spa town!

### **Included Experiences**

**Visit the picturesque Lake Como:** Enjoy free time for lunch at Lake Como in Italy, one of the most beautiful and glamorous destinations visited on the tour.

**Get a photo by the Leaning Tower of Pisa:** See the world-famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, or even take some iconic pictures of you ‘holding up’ the tower!

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **Optional On Tour Excursions**

#### **An Evening in Montecatini**

Ride the Montecatini Funicular and admire the views of Montecatini Terme before enjoying a delicious, three-course Tuscan dinner.

**Approximately € 45**

## DAY 12: Tuscany - Florence - Rome

This morning, visit the enchanting city of Florence. Arrive and embark on a walking tour with a local guide. History oozes out of every pore of this artistic and cultural centre - the city is home to Michaelangelo's 'David' and was the birthplace of the Renaissance. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to further explore Florence. Or, join the Taste of Tuscany optional excursion to sample delectable local cuisine with a family-style meal of Tuscan delights. Later, the tour makes its way back to where this adventure began, because all roads eventually lead to Rome. The tour ends upon arrival in Rome, where'll you have an extra hotel night included.

### Included Experiences

**Guided walking tour of Florence:** Join an expert local guide on a walking tour and see the main sights, including the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Ponte Vecchio, Piazza Della Signoria and the replica statue of David.

**Meals:** Breakfast

### Optional On Tour Excursions

#### Taste of Tuscany

Get a true taste of Tuscany with this culinary experience in Florence! Sit down for a family-style meal and indulge in classic Tuscan dishes.

## DAY 13: Board Mediterranean Cruise

This morning, check out of the hotel room. The day is free before it's time to make your way to the cruise port for 7 nights aboard MSC Seaview.

### Cruise itinerary:

Day 13	Port: Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy	Arrival: -	Departure: 19:00
Day 14	Port: At sea	Arrival: -	Departure: -
Day 15	Port: Palma de Mallorca (Baleari Is.), Spain	Arrival: 09:00	Departure: 23:00
Day 16	Port: Barcelona, Spain	Arrival: 08:00	Departure: 17:00
Day 17	Port: Cannes (Côte d'Azur), France	Arrival: 08:30	Departure: 17:30
Day 18	Port: Genoa (Portofino), Italy	Arrival: 07:00	Departure: 18:00
Day 19	Port: La Spezia (Cinque Terre), Italy	Arrival: 07:00	Departure: 18:00
Day 20	Port: Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy	Arrival: 07:00	Departure: -

## Day 20: Fly Home to Australia

After disembarking in Rome, please catch a taxi to the airport for your flights home to Australia. Happy travels and we look forward to welcoming you back again soon!

**Please note: The daily schedule is intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road & sea conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.**

## About MSC Seaview

The Seaside-class ship launched in 2018 and carries up to 4132 passengers at double occupancy. The cruise experience on MSC Seaview connects you with the world outside, from the sea to the sky. Whether you're sunbathing by one of the pools, strolling around the seafront promenade, dining under the stars or enjoying a relaxing massage in the lavishly appointed MSC Aurea Spa, you're always surrounded by superb views.

The ship boasts an impressive modern design and all the recreational facilities that you'd expect on a grand MSC vessel. Like the high-tech theatre, disco, casino, full-sized bowling alleys, multi-storey water park and adventure trail. There are also colourful kids' play areas created in partnership with LEGO® and Chicco®.

MSC Seaview's main restaurants serve a mouth-watering blend of freshly prepared Mediterranean and international cuisine in elegant surroundings. And with a choice of speciality restaurants offering further variety, there's a menu for every desire. A refreshing choice of 19 classy bars and lounges means you'll have no trouble finding the ideal venue for an evening of laughter with friends, accompanied by sophisticated cocktails, fine wines, a selection of international beers and other refreshments. One of our favourite places to indulge is Venchi 1878 Chocolate Bar, where you can watch the chocolatiers creating the authentic Italian treats through the glass window overlooking the kitchen lab.

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**Please read the following information prior to making your reservation**

Our full set of terms and conditions can be viewed and downloaded on our website, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

**This is a summary in brief for our customers:**

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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