

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK - Autumn Shades

From Paris to Rome via the hill villages and market towns of the South of France, the Cinque Terre and Tuscany.

Day 1: BIENVENUE a PARIS

Our tour commences with Welcome Drinks and Dinner [D]. We meet in the hotel bar at 6pm. [D]

Day 2: PARIS

Every day on the Great Trains of Europe Tours begins with a buffet breakfast. Our morning's sightseeing, anyone for an afternoon visit to Monet's Garden at Giverny? Includes Champs Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel tower. The afternoon is free for your own sightseeing. The Louvre will be closed tomorrow, so if you wish to visit Mona Lisa, today's the day. We are spoiled for choice of restaurant this evening. [B]

Day 3: PARIS

Most Paris museums are closed Tuesdays, but the Orsay (home of the Impressionists) and the Marmottan (a mansion with more than 50 Monets) are open today. An optional excursion is offered today: a full day to the Somme Battlefields of World War I [B]

Day 4: To SARLAT, Dordogne

Our luggage is taken on ahead as we head South at 300kph on the high speed French TGV to Bordeaux (lunch available on board) where we change to the little local train winding its way through the world famous Bordeaux vineyards into the Dordogne region. The walled mediaeval market town of Sarlat is our home for 3 nights. As our luggage arrives we settle in. The village has 5,000 inhabitants and 11 restaurants in the Michelin red book. Excursions from Sarlat are offered each day and included in the tour cost, but feel free to enjoy lazy days in our 'home' village. [D,B]

Day 5: SARLAT

Our day begins with a visit to the walled 'bastide' town of Domme, with excellent shopping and a fine view of a vast sweep of the Dordogne River Valley. It is Market Day in Domme. After an early lunch, we wind along the banks of the Dordogne River on our way to the mediaeval cliff-face village of Rocamadour - very much ON the beaten track. Pilgrims have come to visit the Black Madonna here since the 12th century. [B]

Day 6: SARLAT

The morning is free in the village of Sarlat. This is a 'foodie's' paradise with a vast array of gourmet shops. In the afternoon we visit one of France's most beautiful gardens, the nearby Jardin d'Eyrignac. [B]

Day 7: VILLENEUVE-les-AVIGNON, Provence

Our luggage is taken on ahead, as we join our cross-country trains, via Toulouse, to the historic Provence village of Villeneuve-les-Avignon. Excursions from Villeneuve are offered each day and included in the tour cost. Our hotel boasts an excellent restaurant where we have our included dinner tonight. [B,D]

Day 8: VILLENEUVE-les-AVIGNON

The nearby village of L'Isle-Sur-la-Source prides itself on being France's second largest antiques centre. Visa cards with chronic fatigue syndrome have been known here. It is a very attractive town with streams and water wheels, nicknamed the "Venice of Provence". Today is Market Day. We move on to Fontaine de Vaucluse for lunch beside the waterfall. [B]

Day 9: VILLENEUVE-les-AVIGNON

A visit this morning to the Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct dating from Classical times. Then we move on to van Gogh country and the village of St. Remy, ending the day in the walled city of Avignon, seat of the Popes from 1309 to 1377. The afternoon is free in Avignon. [B]

Day 10: VILLENEUVE-les-AVIGNON

Off the beaten track again today as we drive through some of Provence's favourite villages - hilltop Gordes (market day), Bonnieux, rainbow-coloured Roussillon, and Loumarin - with stops for coffee, lunch & shopping. [B]

Day 11: SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

An early start for the TGV train along the French Riviera to Nice, then a progression of slower local trains across the Italian border to our seafront hotel in Santa Margherita Ligure, just north of the Cinque Terre. Our luggage awaits our arrival [B,D].

Day 12: Cinque Terre - SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

Today we take a boat ride down the Italian Coast past the five villages more commonly known as the Cinque Terre, making stops at two of the villages. Elevenses, a ridiculously long lunch in a seafront restaurant or just a sundowner overlooking the Mediterranean? Back to our hotel tonight. [B]

Day 13: Portofino - SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

A leisurely stroll or short bus ride brings us to uber-touristy Portofino. [B]

Day 14: San Gimignano, TUSCANY

An early start today, so that we can get to San Gimignano before its Market Day ends. Our luggage is transported on ahead as we wind along the Mediterranean coast and into archetypal Tuscan countryside - vineyards, olive-groves and cypresses - down the Vale of Chianti and up the hill to San Gimignano. This walled hilltop village with its 13 towers, standing almost unchanged since the 12th century, is our home for 4 nights. Short day excursions from San Gimignano are provided (and included in your tour cost). You may choose to join the excursion or simply stay in San Gimignano and relax. [B,D]

Day 15: San Gimignano, TUSCANY

A drive off the beaten track today through Southern Tuscan vineyards and olive groves to visit two beautiful hilltop villages and wine centres - Montalcino and Montepulciano. [B]

Day 16: San Gimignano, TUSCANY

This morning we explore the artistic gem of Siena, which stands today much as it did in the twelfth century. You know it from "My House in Umbria" and "Under the Tuscan Sun". Where better to take lunch than at one of the open air trattoria on the Campo? This is the historic city square, the setting for the Palio horse race in the summer. On the way home to San Gimignano we visit the walled village of Monteriggioni. [B]

Day 17: San Gimignano, TUSCANY

This is a good day to climb the tallest tower for panoramic views of the Vale of Chianti, and to visit the small cathedral with its Ghirlandaio painting. You recall Judi Dench's efforts to preserve it in the film 'Tea with Mussolini'.



Anyone fancy a day trip into Florence? Pisa is also a possible destination for a day trip. Your tour guide will provide details. [B]

Day 18: To ROME

Our luggage is taken on to Rome as we wind our way through the Vale of Chianti on the local slow train to Florence, where we change to Italy's High Speed *Frecciarossa* to the eternal city, Rome. Our included dinner is not tonight, but on our final night, but let's go the Piazza Navona anyway for pizza as the Bernini fountains play. [B]

Day 19: ROME

Today's sightseeing focuses on Classical Rome and includes entrances to the Pantheon, the Forum and the Colosseum. "Roma - non basta una vita!" (Rome - one life is not enough!) Join your Tour Leader for a stroll to the Trevi Fountain after dinner. If you throw three coins in the fountain, your return to Rome is guaranteed, so the legend goes. [B]

Day 20: ROME

Catholic Rome today, including entrances and a guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo's masterpiece. The fashion shops on the Via Condotti are open this afternoon. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. [B, D]

Day 21: GRAZIE e ARRIVEDERCI

Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. Thank you for your company on the Great Trains of Europe Tours. [B]

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURE: October 20th, 2024
& October 5th 2025

COST: Land Cost Only
(Join in Paris, leave from Rome)

\$AU 13,950 per person Twin Share
Single Room supplement \$2,000
Enquire about competitive airfares

HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE EUROPE'S CULTURAL CAPITALS 3 NIGHTS IN EACH

- Paris
- Rome

ENJOY

- Village Market Days
- Sistine Chapel

DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN

- Dordogne, France
- Provence, France
- Cinque Terre
- Tuscany, Italy

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre boutique hotels
- 3 & 4 star historic village inns
- 6 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Full time Australian Tour Director



BOOKING CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Great Trains of Europe Tours
(ABN 75 325 01 0 987) are members of IATA #96836610

COSTS: Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at 31st December 2023.

Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows:

Heritage Bank, Toowoomba

BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34 Payment by credit card attracts a 1.5% surcharge.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: A baggage allowance of 23kgs per person applies to all tour members.

HOTELS: Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

OTHER IMPORTANT ADVICE: The tour will proceed if a minimum of 15 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure.

In the highly unlikely event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour.

Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her/ his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim nor imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers may not be covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections.

Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only. Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Leader's discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to unruly or disruptive behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

CONTRACT: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

"Stan's tours are the group tours for people who don't like group tours: they are well organised but not regimented; flexible with plenty of time; no rush, no bustle."



P: 0488 423 848

E: greattrains@bigpond.com

PO Box 4553 TOOWOOMBA EAST 4350, Qld AUSTRALIA

W: www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

ABN 75 325 010 987 IATA # 96 8 36610

38064 www.smartprintgroup.com

Jackie Wood, Melbourne
(5 time tour member on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)



Great Trains of Europe Tours **BOOKING FORM**

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance? YES NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance. I have a pre-existing medical condition.
(NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance)

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.
Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin, sharing with _____

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} Non-smoking Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ _____ or

I have deposited \$ _____ in the "Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.
BSB 638 – 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

Phone 0488 423 848

Email greattrains@bigpond.com

Postal PO Box 4553 TOOWOOMBA EAST 4350, AUSTRALIA

ABN 75 325 010 987 Travel Licence # 3217475 IATA # 96836610