

2021 – 2022

EUROPE

Escorted Small Group Tours by Rail

All stops 3 or 4 nights • 4 and 5 star hotels • First Class rail travel
• Full luggage handling • Australian Tour Director



MANY TOURS
NOW WITH
**NO SOLO
TRAVELLER
SUPPLEMENT**
FOR
EARLYBIRDS

www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au



We are a boutique Australian-based tour company specialising in historical and cultural tours of Europe, travelling on Europe's great trains. We offer only a limited number of tours each year, all personally led by the Company Principal, Mr Stan Klan, a published historian and former history teacher, who has been introducing people to his beloved Europe since 1977.

TRAVEL ON EUROPE'S GREAT TRAINS

Europe's trains are the finest in the world – from the high-speed French TGV streaking across the continent at 320kph to quaint Swiss mountain trains. A rail journey permits you to meet the locals, to stroll down to the restaurant car and bar, or simply to take in the ever changing scenery - vineyards, alps and lakes. All rail travel is in First Class reserved seats, except on some local trains where seats are not reservable or where only standard class is offered.

3 NIGHTS MINIMUM STOPS

Travellers quickly tire of whistlestop coach tours which move on to a new hotel every night. On the Great Trains of Europe Tours, every stop is at least 3 nights, giving you time to unpack and start feeling like a local.

QUALITY CENTRAL HOTELS

Were you ever on a tour where your hotel was a motorway chain motel an hour outside Venice or Paris? On the Great Trains of Europe Tours we use centrally located hotels – on the Grand Canal in Venice, in the heart of Paris' Montparnasse on the Left Bank, next to the KuDamm in Berlin. In cities we use 4 star boutique or 5 star hotels and the highest category historic village inns available in the countryside.

LUGGAGE TRANSPORTED ON AHEAD

Have you tried a rail journey but found loading your luggage a pain? No problems on the Great Trains of Europe Tours: your luggage is collected from your hotel on departure morning and is transferred on ahead to await your arrival in your new city.

LIMITED GROUP SIZE

The maximum number of participants on each tour is limited to 25 paying guests. This makes the groups small enough to avoid the "herd mentality" yet big enough to offer a variety of new friends.

FULL SIGHTSEEING PROGRAMME

How much to include? How to provide for first timers who want to see everything and also for those experienced travellers who want to have a more leisurely time? The eternally popular "must see" sights are included in an orientation sightseeing tour on arrival in each new city.

On some tours, clearly explained and optional excursions are offered. We'll need to know your choices before departure. Freedom to do your own thing, or a full sightseeing and activity programme. On the Great Trains of Europe Tours, the choice is yours.

MEALS

Nothing on a group tour causes more angst than the question of meals: pit-stops for re-fuelling before dashing out to a concert or to do some more exploring? Or a gourmet experience every night? Should expensive wines be costed in, the non-drinkers subsidising the drinkers?

On the Great Trains of Europe Tours we include in the tour cost the first evening meal in each new city or village, at a local trattoria or bistro. Drinks are at your own expense. On the other nights your Tour Director either recommends restaurants at different price levels or accompanies you to dinner.

QUALITY ASSURANCE – A PERSONAL TOUCH

All tours are personally escorted by an Australian historian who has more than 35 years experience in introducing people to Europe: he is not only the Tour Director; he is also the Company owner, guaranteeing a level of quality control few companies can match.

WHO TRAVELS ON THE GREAT TRAINS OF EUROPE TOURS?

While all are welcome, the tour member profile is usually in the 40+ age bracket, but families are most welcome on all tours. Selected tours are identified as **Family-Friendly**. the programme and pace are especially suitable for families with children, and children under 12 sharing a room with adults stay free. In this brochure the **Winter Wonderland Tour with White Christmas** is especially designated as family friendly.

Advice of any mobility or dietary issues is required at the time of booking. If you cannot walk 500 metres and climb 50 stairs without assistance, your booking will be accepted only along with a booking from a designated carer.

Our tour members (some up to their 11th tour with us) have an interest in history and art but don't want in-depth lectures from professors; they love food and wine but don't take too kindly to "pompous git" experts; they enjoy new experiences and have a sense of humour.

While the majority of our tour members are Australians and New Zealanders, we have also welcomed (and become friends with) Americans, Canadians, South Africans, Malaysians and Brits. All are welcome. All tours are conducted in English.





WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT GREAT TRAINS OF EUROPE TOURS?

- Leisurely pace – all stops 3 or 4 nights
- Quality, centrally located 4 & 5 star hotels and historic village inns
- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- Full luggage handling between stops
- All tours personally escorted by an Australian historian, who is the company owner (35 yrs experience as a tour director)
- Small groups
- Many repeat customers (up to 11th tour) happy to give personal recommendations
- Consider the environment – diesel bus or electric train?



Testimonials.....

"Your tours are really informative and you have given me many opportunities to see parts of the world I would never thought possible to see. I have amazing photos of places we visited, we covered so many miles and saw so many countries with really good guides and lots of laughs and experiences along the way. So a big thank you Stan, for your amazing knowledge, humour and exceptional guidance on all the tours I have done with you. I look forward to a few more. I just thought I would let you know how honoured I feel to have toured with you" **Lynda Gerrard, Auckland NZ. Six time tour member, Great Trains of Europe Tours**

"We felt we needed to write to you and thank you once again for a marvellous holiday. Your knowledge, organisation and your ability to make us all feel part of the experience is exceptional. We have recommended you to close friends because you are the real deal. Your habit of making yourself available so that no-one should eat alone speaks volumes about you." **Jennifer and Steve Almond, Wollongong NSW**

"Robyn and I enjoyed visiting countries we probably would not have visited but for this tour. It was so reassuring & relaxing to have your leadership. So a big congratulations on a most successful tour." **Dr Jeff Prebble, Toowoomba, Qld**

"Thank you so much for my best ever trip to Europe / UK, what we experienced in 3 weeks was truly amazing; your tour leadership was brilliant." **Ms Helen Ivory, Toowoomba, Qld**

"My goodness, such a wonderful experience being on your tour. You remain so focussed and nothing ever goes awry! Luggage... no worries. Trains... no worries. Accommodation... no worries. Acta Diurna a good idea, so there's simply great communication and no confusion. Very fine, stress free holiday. Thank you." **Ms Chris Tyson-Doneley, Toowoomba, Qld**



How did the Great Trains of Europe Tours begin?

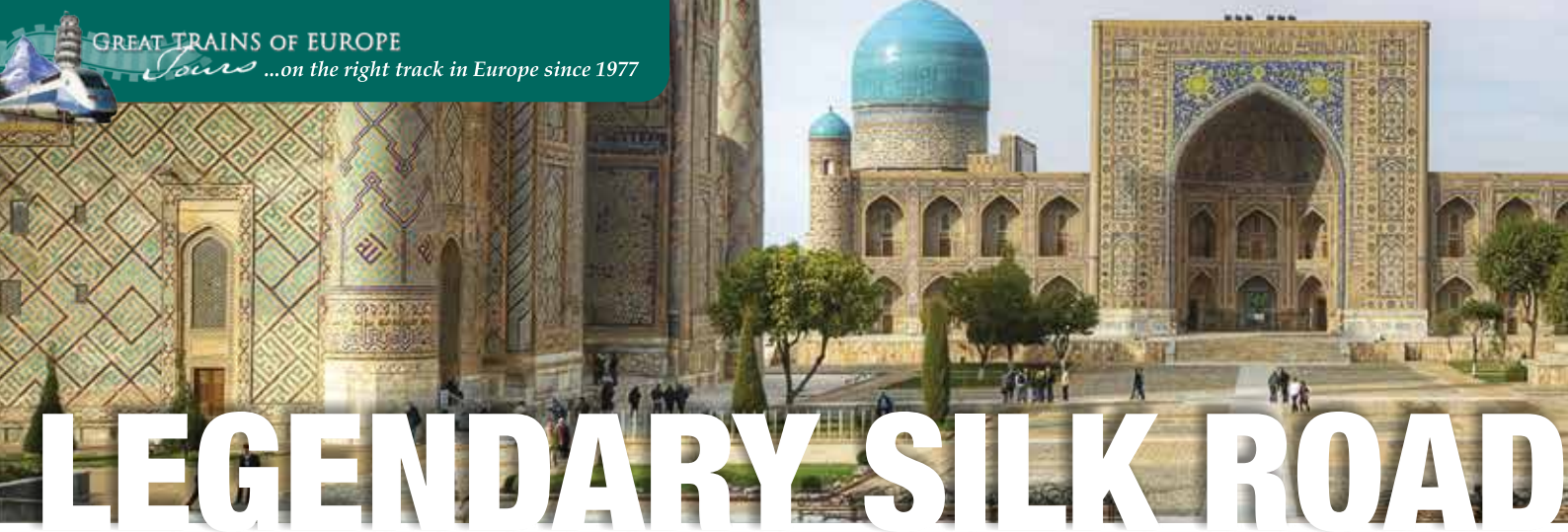
In 1977 I was a beginning teacher of History at a boys' school on the Gold Coast. One day half the class were missing: they were on a Geography excursion. "Why can't we have a History excursion, sir?" one student asked. "OK," I replied, "let's go to Europe". We were studying the Causes of the First World War at the time. At the end of the lesson, two boys asked, "Did you mean that, Sir, about an excursion to Europe?" I had travelled Europe as a student and undertaken some post graduate study there, so why not?

For the next thirty years in five schools as History teacher and School Principal, the European (magical) History Tour was a feature of our lives. I retired early and licensed my own travel agency and tour operator business "Great Trains of Europe Tours" and so continue my lifelong passion for Europe, her history and culture, and her great trains.

Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is an accredited travel agent. We are members of IATA (Licence #96836610)

Stan Han

ON THE RIGHT TRACK IN EUROPE
Since 1977



LEGENDARY SILK ROAD

October 1st: To BEIJING Join your flight today to China's capital, Beijing. On arrival you are transferred to your centrally located 5 star hotel. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[D]**

October 2nd: BEIJING Today we are introduced to the ancient (and modern) city of Beijing – highlights include the Temple of Heaven as well as the famous Tiananmen Square. For centuries the doors to the former Emperor's Palaces have been closed to the public. Today the glorious halls and mysterious temples of the Forbidden City are open for us. A traditional Chinese dinner of Peking Duck tonight. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 3rd: BEIJING -Great Wall of China The Great Wall of China is the 8th Wonder of the World; today you can experience it up close, both on foot and from a cable car. Construction began in the 7th century BC with sections of the 1,500 mile long wall dating from the 3rd century BC, and most from the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644). On the way back to our Beijing hotel, we visit the famous Ming Tombs (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Sacred Way. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 4th: To XIAN On the tracks today. We join China's high speed bullet train, taking our reserved First Class seats for our journey at 300kph from China's modern capital, to her historic capital, the walled city of Xian. On arrival we are transferred to our 5 star city centre hotel. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 5th: XIAN – Entombed Warriors This morning there is a city sightseeing tour of Xian, including the 7th Century Wild Goose Buddhist Pagoda and the 14th Century Great Mosque. The afternoon is free for the markets or, for the more athletic, a bicycle ride around the city walls – 14 kilometres. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 6th: XIAN Yet another wonder of the world today – the Entombed Warriors of Xian. 8,000 life size soldiers, and 130 chariots with 520 horses, stand guard over the grave of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, since 210–209 BC. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 7th: To ALMATY We skip the next bit of the Silk Road today, as there is no train. Instead, we join our international flight to Almaty in Kazakhstan where, on arrival, we are transferred to our centrally located hotel. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 8th: ALMATY This morning we enjoy a sightseeing tour of this green metropolitan city at the foot of the mighty Ile Alatau Mountains. Highlights include the Zenkov Russian Orthodox Cathedral, built entirely of wood, the Wedding Palace, the Almaty Circus, and the Central Mosque. After a Kazakh welcome lunch, we board our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 9th: TURKESTAN We arrive after breakfast in the city of Turkestan and visit the 1394 Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, one of the most significant examples of Timurid architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards our private train continues its journey, crossing the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan border towards Tashkent. Border formalities are completed in the comfort of our compartment. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 10th: TASHKENT Our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express, arrives in the early morning at Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent. During our city sightseeing of this green oasis in the steppe, we see the Madrasa Kukeldash, the Kavoj and Amir Timur monuments. This evening we attend a concert in a music hall, and then re-board our private train. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 11th: SHAKHRISABZ Through mountainous territory, we follow the route of the trade caravans, also the route and the armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamerlane. A traditional ceremony offers us first-hand insight

into the region's unique folklore, before continuing to the green city of Shakhrisabz, Tamerlane's birthplace, where we visit the brutal Mongol leader's great palace. Back on board, we head for the magical city of Samarkand. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 12th: SAMARKAND On arrival in Samarkand we settle into our First Class hotel for a 2 night stay. During the rule of Tamerlane, Samarkand was considered the world's most beautiful city, and it still speaks of all the magic of 1,001 Nights. Today we learn why. It is also historically important, as the site where many Uzbek women burned their veils (burkhas) in 1917, with the arrival of the Soviet system. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 13th SAMARKAND Our day's sightseeing in this fascinating city includes a tour of a silk carpet manufactory, a visit to an Uzbek craftsman's family to see paper being made from mulberry bark, stops at the Ulug Beg Observatory and the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque, and viewing the interior of the palace-like Gur Emir Mausoleum. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 14th: SAMARKAND The morning is yours to explore Samarkand or spend as you please. We re-board the Silk Road Orient Express at noon and depart for Khiva. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 15th: KHIVA Today we visit the oasis of Khiva, an exotic fairy tale from 1001 Nights – in stone. Its palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums, and madrassas (Muslim religious schools) represent one of the best preserved ensembles of medieval oriental urban architecture in the world. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 16th: BUKHARA On arrival in Bukhara (also called Sherif - the noble one) we transfer to our First Class hotel and then commence our city sightseeing of just a few of its thousand architectural monuments recalling the golden age of the Great Silk Route, including the almost fifty-metre tall Kalyan Minaret. Exotic spices, furs, and especially silk were stored and traded then in the city's caravanserais. The Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 17th: BUKHARA This morning we continue to explore Bukhara's ancient oriental architecture - the splendid Mir-e-Arab Madrasa, the Samanid Mausoleum, and the massive Ark Citadel. Our private train continues its journey in the evening. *Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express* **[B,L,D]**

October 18th: MERV We farewell the Silk Road Orient Express this morning on arrival at the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site of Merv. Here are the remnants of what was once one of the world's largest and most magnificent cities: gigantic walls and ramparts simply standing in the middle of the desert next to the imposing ruins of ancient buildings such as the Tomb of the Sultan Sanjar, and the Maidens' Castle. We have lunch with a local family in their home's picturesque courtyard. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 19th: NISA & ASHGABAT This morning we are driven to the ancient Parthian city of Nisa, then after lunch we take a guided tour of the modern-day Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat and the National Museum in Ashgabat, where we view artefacts excavated from the ruins at Nisa and gain insight into the development of a culture shaped by various peoples, ethnicities, and religions. *Overnight: First Class hotel* **[B,L,D]**

October 20th: To ISTANBUL (Constantinople) The traditional Silk Route further West requires passage through Iran, Iraq and Syria, so we bail out and take a flight to its historic terminus, Constantinople (Istanbul) where, on arrival, you transfer to your homeward flight or, if you choose to join your Tour Director on an 8 day Add-on tour of Istanbul, Troy and Gallipoli, we transfer to our First Class hotel. **[B]**

TURKEY

ISTANBUL, TROY & GALLIPOLI POST TOUR:

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

OCT 20th ISTANBUL On arrival in Istanbul Airport from our Silk Road journey, we are transferred to our First Class city-centre hotel. **[D]**

OCT 21st ISTANBUL Istanbul has a long and eventful history, reflected in its 3 names – Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul. Today we see modern Istanbul, the city spread across the two continents of Europe and Asia. **[B,D]**

OCT 22nd ISTANBUL We begin our exploration of the Byzantine and Ottoman city at the Hippodrome and nearby twin shrines of Hagia Sophia, the greatest church in Christendom for a millennium, and the Blue Mosque. We then visit the historic underground cisterns constructed under Emperor Justinian in the sixth century. Free time in the afternoon for the Spice Market, which has been selling spices from the East since mediaeval times. **[B]**

OCT 23rd ISTANBUL This morning we visit the Topkapi Palace, the royal palace of the Ottomans, founded in 1459, just 6 years after the invasion of Christian Constantinople by the Turks. Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I it has served as a most important museum with fine art and ornamentation from the Ottoman era. The harem room is of more than appropriate interest to most tourists.

We spend the afternoon in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops. **[B]**

OCT 24th To GALLIPOLI By coach today we skirt the Sea of Marmara south-west into European Turkey towards the Dardanelles. Here is the town of Gelibolu situated on the peninsula of the same name. We all know it as Gallipoli. **[B,D]**

OCT 25th GALLIPOLI The "holy of holies" for Australians and Kiwis today. Our sightseeing today is a roll call of those places seared into our national psyche – Anzac Cove, Chunuk Bair, Lone Pine. Back to our Gallipoli hotel tonight. **[B,D]**

OCT 26th TROY - ISTANBUL An Ancient history excursion today to Classical Troy, long believed to be a Greek myth until unearthed in the 1860s by the German archaeologist Dr Heinrich Schliemann. In the afternoon we make our way back to our Istanbul hotel. **[B,D]**

OCT 27th FAREWELL Our Turkish holiday ends this morning after breakfast. **[B]**

INCLUDES 7 nights in First Class hotels (best available in Gallipoli) with breakfasts, 5 dinners, all entrances and sightseeing per itinerary.

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS
DEPARTURE:
October 21st 2021

COST: \$AU 4,900
per person twin share.

Land content only. (Join tour in Istanbul.)
Single room supplement \$900.

**NOW AVAILABLE
EXCLUDING
CHINA
COMMENCE IN ALMATY
ON OCTOBER 7TH
DEDUCT
\$4000PP**

Although the term Silk Road (or Silk Route) was coined only in the 1870s by the German cartographer Ferdinand von Richthofen, there has been a trading route between China and Europe since the third century BC, with silk from the East being but one of the commodities traded. 1,500 years later Marco Polo may or may not have followed the route. We don't have 20 years to spare to make the journey, so we commence with the high speed train from Beijing to Xian, then fly on to Almaty in Kazakhstan to join our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express, for a 13 day journey (6 nights spent on board) along the historic route through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. We skip the next section of the Silk Road - through Iran, Iraq and Syria - and fly on to finish our journey in Istanbul, ancient Constantinople, the terminus of the historic Silk Road.

CHINA INCLUDED FEATURES:

- 6 nights bed and buffet breakfast in international 5 star hotels
- All meals according to program
- Guided sightseeing and entrances as per itinerary
- First class seats on the high speed Beijing to Xian train
- Xian to Almaty economy class flight
- Airport arrival and departure transfers

ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS:

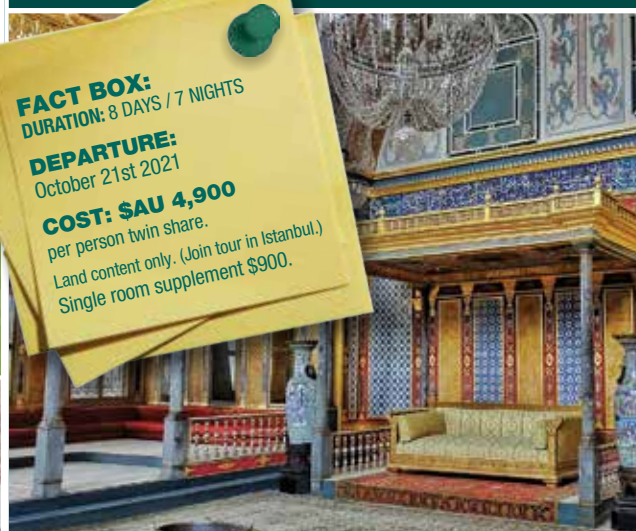
- 7 overnights on the private train according to the booked cabin category
- 5 overnights in First Class hotels
- All meals according to program
- Sightseeing program including all entrance fees according to program
- Guided transfers to and from all airports and train stations according to program
- Multi-lingual Tour Director
- Experienced local guides
- Doctor on board
- Ashgabat to Istanbul economy class flight.

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 20 DAYS
DEPARTURES:
October 1st 2021

From \$AU 21,250 pp twin share
Please see Cabins insert for more info.
Land Only Content (Join in Beijing, leave in Istanbul).

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES:
From any Australian capital city to Beijing, and from Istanbul back to the same Australian city.
ECONOMY CLASS: \$2,600
BUSINESS CLASS: \$5,800



**SOLO
TRAVELLERS
PAY NO
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**

EUROPE'S PRE-CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Enjoy the world-famous Christmas Markets and Classical Music tradition of Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. One performance - orchestral, opera or ballet - is included at each stop.

November 30th: MUNICH The tour commences today in our 4 star boutique hotel in the heart of Munich. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner. **[D]**

December 1st: MUNICH A sightseeing tour this morning of this thousand year old city. Munich is the capital of Bavaria with strong Wagner, Carl Orff and Richard Strauss associations. Munich is home to the Bavarian State Opera, the Bavarian State Ballet, and the Bavarian State Radio Orchestra. Details of our Classical Music performance will be provided closer to departure. The afternoon is free for the Christmas markets. **[B]**

December 2nd: MUNICH - Visit Nuremberg markets Ask any German which city has the very best Christmas markets and the unequivocal answer will be "Nuremberg". Following a morning in the shops or museums of Munich we have an early afternoon departure for the one hour train journey to Nuremberg, Bavaria's second city. The markets come alive as the lights come on. Back to our Munich hotel this evening. **[B]**

December 3rd: MUNICH - King Ludwig's Castle Visit An excursion by local rail today into the foothills of the Bavarian Alps to visit the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle, built by "mad" King Ludwig. Back to our Munich hotel. Will this be the night for a classical concert or an opera? **[B]**

December 4th: SALZBURG Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join Austria's flagship train, the Railjet, to Salzburg the city of Mozart and Maria von Trapp. On arrival we enjoy a walking tour through the Old City, and a funicular ride to the Hohensalzburg Fortress for a panoramic view across the city. Then some of the major Mozart sights and Christmas markets before our included dinner. **[B,D]**

December 5th: SALZBURG A day for Sound of Music fans, as we join a tour of the main locations used in the film. Another bash at the Christmas markets. **[B]**

December 6th: SALZBURG How about a day in the Austrian Alps? We take the Railjet again to the Hapsburgs Winter Capital, Innsbruck where after a short walking tour, we take a cable car up the Alps for lunch with a view across the city from 7,000 feet. Back to Salzburg, her markets, and our hotel. **[B]**

December 7th: VIENNA Today we join Austrian Rail's Railjet to Vienna, the Imperial Capital of the Hapsburgs and still – after more than two centuries – still the world capital of Classical music. It was home to Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, Schubert, Bruckner, Korngold, Gluck and Strauss. Not a bad roll call! We settle into our city-centre hotel, where our luggage awaits. Vienna's fine buildings look magnificent by night, as do her Christmas markets. **[B,D]**

December 8th: VIENNA Our morning city sightseeing programme introduces us to this stately city - the Ring, the Hofburg and St Stephen's (setting of Mozart's wedding and his funeral). Watch the fountains and listen to the music. **[B]**

December 9th: VIENNA A free day in Vienna. Her Christkindlmarkt (Christmas markets) are world famous, as are her opera companies and orchestras. Will this be the night for our classical music performance? We will be advised as programmes are released. **[B]**

December 10th: VIENNA After a short rail journey we arrive in the Hapsburg's second capital – and home to Franz Liszt, Dohnányi, Kodály and Béla Bartók - Budapest. Our city sightseeing includes the Chain Bridge, Buda Castle, the Gothic St Matthew's Church, and the Fisherman's Bastion. Visit one of the famous historic coffee houses and the Christmas markets before re-joining our train to our hotel in Vienna. **[B]**

December 11th: PRAGUE Today's rail journey brings us in the early afternoon to magical Prague. Our afternoon stroll includes the nearby Old Town Square which has buildings from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. Enjoy the view over coffee in an outdoor café. **[B,D]**

December 12th: PRAGUE This morning we begin to discover this magnificent city. Prague was never bombed, and much of the Old City is untouched from the fourteenth century. The Castle, the Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, and the Jewish Quarter feature in our sightseeing. Classical music opportunities abound. Mozart loved Prague, and his love was reciprocated. **[B]**

December 13th: PRAGUE Enjoy your free day in this beautiful city, shopping or enjoying the music and the markets. Prague is the centre for world famous Bohemian crystal. **[B]**

December 14th: LEIPZIG Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) for a panoramic rail journey down the gorges of the Vltava River and on to the city of Bach, Mendelssohn and the Schumanns – Leipzig. Enjoy the markets before our included dinner. **[B,D]**

December 15th: LEIPZIG This morning's city sightseeing includes the Thomas Church where we pay homage at Bach's grave, the University of Leipzig which counts both Bach and Goethe among its alumni, and the Nicholas Church – famous for its role in the end of Communism. The afternoon is free for the Christmas markets.. **[B]**

December 16th: LEIPZIG - Visit to Dresden While Leipzig was the cultural capital of the Kingdom of Saxony, its princes ruled from the palace in their capital Dresden. Today we visit this stately city which is still being rebuilt from its near-total destruction one night in February 1945. Sensational museums, the Semper Opera House and plenty of Christmas markets. Back to Leipzig tonight. **[B]**

December 17th: BERLIN Our short rail journey today has us in Berlin before lunch time. Our afternoon's sightseeing introduces us to the city which divided Europe for 45 years - the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Unter den Linden. Tonight's classical music performance, if available, will be chosen from some of the world's finest orchestras and opera companies. **[B]**

December 18th: BERLIN More sightseeing today in the city with a greater concentration of museums than London, and one of the world's great zoos. Will the Berlin Philharmonic be in town? **[B]**

December 19th: BERLIN A final day for that last minute Christmas shopping. Couldn't find it in the markets? Visit the greatest department store in the world [in your Tour Director's humble opinion] – KaDeWe, a short walk from our hotel. Our farewell dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

December 20th: AUF WIEDERSEHEN Our tour ends after breakfast. Thank you for your company on the Great Trains of Europe.

TOUR DIRECTOR: Your Tour Director for all tours in this brochure, Mr Stan Klan of Toowoomba, Qld, is a published Australian historian and the Principal of Great Trains of Europe Tours. Stan has more than 30 years' experience in history teaching and tour guiding.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

POST-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE PRE-CHRISTMAS MAGIC TOUR:

Why not enjoy a White Christmas in a beautiful Swiss Alpine village (with opportunities to visit Christmas markets) after the Pre-Christmas Magic Tour?

On arrival on December 21st there is an airport transfer to the picturesque Swiss Alpine village of Grindelwald, nestled under the North Face of the Eiger. Our hotel is rated 3+ stars and oozes Swiss charm. There are breathtaking Alpine views and a roaring log fire. We have reserved superior standard rooms with private facilities for our tour members.

Every morning there is a buffet breakfast, and every evening a four course dinner is provided for our tour members. This includes the festivities of a special Christmas Dinner, as Swiss tradition dictates on the night of Christmas Eve. There is a beautiful church 50 metres away with a midnight service on Christmas Eve should you wish to attend.

Grindelwald is a snow sports fan's heaven. But if you are not a snow bunny, there are a million other things to do. Grindelwald is a hub for the Swiss mountain train networks and there are many gondolas and cable cars to the Alpine peaks all around. It is an easy train ride to the cities of Berne, Basel and Zurich with their Christmas markets.

The village itself offers excellent shopping and a wide variety of restaurants and coffee shops for lingering lazy lunches, before returning to the hotel to read or snooze in front of the log fire.

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation in a superior standard room with private facilities in a 3 star hotel in the Swiss village of Grindelwald.
- ✓ 7 buffet breakfasts, 7 four course dinners (inc. Special Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve).
- ✓ Escorted First Class Rail transfer from Berlin to Grindelwald at the end of the Pre-Christmas Tour.

NOTE: Your hosts are on hand to provide sightseeing suggestions and assistance, but there are no escorted activities during this relaxing week.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

FREE RETURN AIRFARE
FOR BOOKINGS BEFORE
MAY 31ST

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
NOVEMBER 30th 2021
NOVEMBER 30th 2022

COST: \$11,950 per person twin or single. Land Content Only, commencing in Munich and ending in Berlin.

Solo travellers are guaranteed their own single room without paying a single room supplement..

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

ENJOY

Europe's pre-Christmas buzz.

Included Classical music performances - ideally one in each city, but this will depend on offerings once programmes are published.

Plenty of free time for shopping in Europe's legendary Christmas markets, department stores and boutiques.

TRAVEL

- All stops 3 or 4 nights
- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 Star Hotels with buffet breakfasts
- 6 dinners, sightseeing and entrances as indicated
- Tips for local guides
- Full luggage handling between cities
- 1 Classical Music / Opera / Ballet performance in each of the cities where we stay. Details will be advised when programmes are finalised.

DEPOSIT

\$2,500 with booking, final payment 3 months before travel.



FACT BOX:

DURATION: 8 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
DECEMBER 21st 2021

COST:
\$AU 3000 per person twin share
Single supplement \$750

Children under 12 sharing adults' room travel free. Children aged 12 to 17 sharing adults' room travel at 50%.



WINTER WONDERLAND

Swiss and Austrian Alps and the Romantic Cities of Venice, Prague and Paris

December 28th: PARIS Settle into our 4 star Left Bank Hotel. Meet your fellow tour members for Drinks and Dinner. **[D]**

December 29th: PARIS Every day on a Great Trains of Europe tour begins with a full buffet breakfast. Our morning sightseeing includes the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees and Notre Dame ending up at the Louvre to say hello to Mona Lisa. An afternoon optional excursion is available to the Versailles Palace of Louis XIV. **[B]**

December 30th: PARIS Department stores, fashion boutiques, a long lunch? There is an optional excursion offered today to the Somme Battlefields of WWI. Here we visit sites sacred in Australia & NZ's national history. **[B]**

December 31st: PARIS A final free day in every true romantic's favourite city. Join the crowds tonight on the Champs Elysees to celebrate the dawning of the New Year. **[B]**

January 1st: INTERLAKEN – Swiss Alps & Lakes Farewell Paris this morning. We begin our love affair with the Great Trains of Europe on her fastest – the French TGV – reaching 320kph towards the Alps and Interlaken with stunning views of the Eiger and Jungfrau. This is our home for 3 nights. Interlaken hosts a huge street party on New Year's Day culminating in spectacular fireworks. **[B,D]**

January 2nd: INTERLAKEN – Swiss Alps & Lakes Enjoy a late and leisurely brunch before deciding whether to do nothing or to do very little. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for some mountain railway or cable car rides to the peaks of the surrounding Alps. **[B]**

January 3rd: INTERLAKEN – Swiss Alps & Lakes Today we take one of the Great Rail Journeys of the World – the tiny red Glacier Express through the Alps as we enjoy breathtaking views from the panorama car. **[B]**

January 4th: To VENICE Another of Europe's great rail journeys today. The Swiss-Italian Cisalpino takes us through the Alps past the Northern Italian lakes via Milan and on to the City of Canals, Venice, another of Europe's truly romantic cities. Our 4 star hotel overlooks the Grand Canal. Settle in, watch the lights come on as the waterbuses chug past. **[B,D]**

January 5th: VENICE This morning we begin to explore the art and history of Venice. Byzantine St Mark's is considered by many to be the most beautiful church in the world and the historic Doge's Palace and its Bridge of Sighs are "must sees". **[B]**

January 6th: VENICE There is time for a gondola ride and a visit to an outer island – Burano for exquisite lace, Murano for world famous Venetian glass. Art lovers will want to see the Tintoretto paintings in the Scuola di San Rocco, the Titian in the Friary Church and the collection of Venetian Renaissance art in the Accademia Gallery. **[B]**

January 7th: VENICE or Day Trip to Florence Either another quiet day today exploring the bridges and canals of Venice or join an optional excursion on Italy's flagship train the Eurostar Italia for a visit to Florence, the cradle of Western civilisation and birthplace of the Renaissance. **[B]**

January 8th: To INNSBRUCK Farewell Italy, as we head back towards the Alps. After lunch we join our Eurocity train for Innsbruck as our luggage is taken on ahead. We are not staying in downtown Innsbruck but in the beautiful Alpine Village of Igls perched 15 minutes above. Thaw out with a glass of gluhwein in front of the roaring log fire. This is our home for 4 nights. **[B,D]**

January 9th: INNSBRUCK Choices today: skiing or join your Tour Leader in an exploration of Innsbruck, the Imperial city of the Hapsburgs. We commence by riding a tramcar through snow-decked forests, to Innsbruck below. Explore the mediaeval quarter and take a ride up the Hungerberg railway for a panorama of the Alps. **[B]**

January 10th: INNSBRUCK or Day Trip to Salzburg Today you may choose to ski, to potter about the village, to sit in front of the log fire or to take the tram back down into Innsbruck to the shops. There is an optional excursion by Austrian Railjet train to Mozart's birthplace, Salzburg. **[B]**

January 11th: INNSBRUCK Another quiet day in our Alpine haven – a good book in front of the log fire? Alternatively, your Tour Leader will assist you if you wish to make a visit to nearby Munich or the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein. **[B]**

January 12th: To PRAGUE Our luggage is collected and taken on ahead as we bid farewell to the Alps and join a EuroCity train for another of Europe's great romantic cities – Prague. Our hotel is in the historic centre. **[B]**

January 13th: PRAGUE Today there is a visit to Prague Castle overlooking the city. Here is also the cathedral church of St Vitus, incorporating the chapel built to house the relics of Good King Wenceslas, murdered here a thousand years ago. A free afternoon for the shops or to enjoy the music. **[B]**

January 14th: PRAGUE or Day Trip to DRESDEN A free day – continue your exploration of this city or join an optional excursion to Dresden, one of Europe's cultural wonders now emerging from the ashes of World War II bombing and 44 yrs of communism. **[B]**

January 15th: PRAGUE Enjoy a last free day in magical Prague. Understand why Mozart loved it. Crystal and garnet are popular with shoppers. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

January 16th: HOMEWARD BOUND The tour ends after breakfast this morning. **[B]**

Family Friendly Tour
KIDS STAY FREE
Ask for details

WHITE CHRISTMAS

PRE-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE WINTER WONDERLAND TOUR:

Why not enjoy a White Christmas in a beautiful Swiss Alpine village (with opportunities to visit Christmas markets) before embarking on the Winter Wonderland Tour?

On arrival on December 21st there is an airport transfer to the picturesque Swiss Alpine village of Grindelwald, nestled under the North Face of the Eiger. Our hotel is rated 3+ stars and oozes Swiss charm. There are breathtaking Alpine views and a roaring log fire. We have reserved superior standard rooms with private facilities for our tour members.

Every morning there is a buffet breakfast, and every evening a four course dinner is provided for our tour members. This includes the festivities of a special Christmas Dinner, as Swiss tradition dictates on the night of Christmas Eve. There is a beautiful church 50 metres away with a midnight service on Christmas Eve should you wish to attend.

Grindelwald is a snow sports fan's heaven. But if you are not a snow bunny, there are a million other things to do. Grindelwald is a hub for the Swiss mountain train networks and there are many gondolas and cable cars to the Alpine peaks all around. It is an easy train ride to the cities of Berne, Basel and Zurich with their Christmas markets.

The village itself offers excellent shopping and a wide variety of restaurants and coffee shops for lingering lazy lunches, before returning to the hotel to read or snooze in front of the log fire. On December 28th (is it all over so soon?) you are escorted on the rail journey to Paris to commence the Winter Wonderland Tour.

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation in a superior standard room with private facilities in a 3 star hotel in the Swiss village of Grindelwald.
- ✓ 7 buffet breakfasts, 7 four course dinners (inc. Special Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve).
- ✓ Transfer from Zurich or Geneva Airport to Grindelwald on Dec 21st; escorted rail transfer from Grindelwald to Paris on Dec 28th to join Winter Wonderland Tour.

NOTE: Your hosts are on hand to provide sightseeing suggestions and assistance, but there are no escorted activities during this relaxing week.

KIDS STAY FREE – White Christmas & Winter Wonderland

Children under 12 sharing adults' room travel free.
Children aged 12 to 17 sharing adults' room travel at 50%.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights in each of Europe's Most Romantic Cities:
Paris, Venice & Prague
- New Year's Eve in Paris
- 3 nights in the Swiss Alps
- 4 nights in the Austrian Alps
- Ride the Glacier Express

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre hotels
- 5 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Full time Australian Historian Tour Director who is the Company Principal

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 20 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
DECEMBER 28th 2021
DECEMBER 28th 2022

COST: Land Only Content
(Join in Paris, leave in Prague).

Ask about KIDS STAY FREE

\$AU 10,950 per person twin share
Single Room Supplement \$1,500
Enquire about competitive airfares



DEPART ANY DAY – INDEPENDENT TOURING

The Winter Wonderland Tour is available as an unescorted tour, departing any day of the year at a SAVING of 25% of the group tour cost. We provide hotel accommodation, rail travel and detailed sightseeing notes.



FACT BOX:

DURATION: 7 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
DECEMBER 21st 2021
DECEMBER 21st 2022

COST:

\$AU 2,500 per person twin share
Single supplement \$600

Children under 12 sharing adults' room travel free. Children aged 12 to 17 sharing adults' room travel at 50%.



MOROCCO & THE SOUTH OF SPAIN



The lands on either side of the Straits of Gibraltar have blossomed and been scarred by centuries of conflict between Berber, Moorish, Jewish and Christian civilisations. Today they are an example of tolerance and peace.

March 6th: MARRAKECH Our tour commences today on arrival at Marrakech International Airport. Transfer to our hotel inside the Casbah. Welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel. **[D]**

March 7th: MARRAKECH This morning we commence our exploration of this fascinating city, one of the four former Imperial capitals of Morocco. Outside the red or ochre walls which give the city its nickname 'the ochre city', there is a modern Western city with boulevards echoing the period of French control of Morocco. Then we explore the old city where the 12th century Koutoubia mosque's 77 metre minaret dominates the city skyline. We end at the Djemaa El Fna – the vast square in the heart of the old city. Hawkers, snake charmers, buskers.....enjoy. **[B]**

March 8th: MARRAKECH A day trip through olive and Argan groves today to the Atlantic coast and the harbour town of Essaouira, with its 17th century Portuguese fort. The old medina is a UNESCO listed world heritage site. **[B]**

March 9th: FES Moroccan Rail is certainly the best in North Africa, and today we take our First class seats in an air-conditioned carriage for a journey from the desert landscape of Marrakech through the fertile



coastal farmland, the vineyards and orchards of Meknes to another of Morocco's former imperial capitals, Fes. **[B,D]**

March 10th: FES Fes was founded around 900AD and its medina – old city – is UNESCO heritage listed. Our sightseeing begins at the historic and beautiful Blue Gate this morning. Fes is considered the spiritual capital of Morocco: it has madressas - universities – that are a thousand years old, and a synagogue dating from the 17th century. **[B]**

March 11th: FES A day to visit the souks and bargain for local leather goods and jewellery. The Medina al Bali, with many kilometres of winding pathways and thousands of shops, is one of the largest pedestrian-only urban areas on Earth. Be sure you have the hotel name written in Arabic to show to any teenager when (not if) you get lost. For a 20 dirham coin (\$2) he will escort you home to the hotel. **[B]**

March 12th: TANGIER On Moroccan Rail again today, back through the vineyards of Meknes to the most northerly point of Morocco – Tangier, on the Straits of Gibraltar. Its location at the mouth of the Mediterranean and its colourful history since its foundation by Carthage in the 5th century BC, make Tangier a truly cosmopolitan port city. **[B,D]**

March 13th: TANGIER For the first half of the 20th century Tangier was an international zone partitioned between France, Spain and Britain. It is said to have been a hangout for spies, drug runners and international intrigue, and also the original setting for Rick and Ilsa and Sam in "Casablanca". The Hollywood



moguls felt that the word Casablanca was more mellifluous (Would you go to a movie called "Tangier?"). Our city sightseeing takes in the medina and the harbour. **[B]**

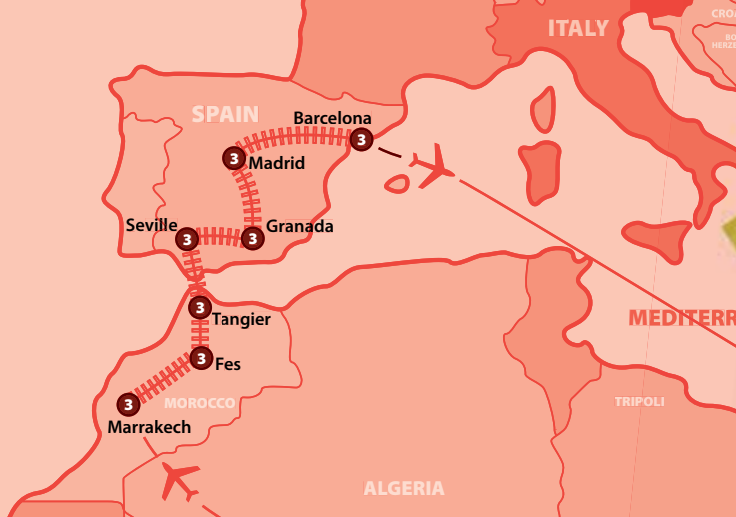
March 14th: TANGIER A visit today to one of Morocco's true gems: the blue city of Chefchaouen, a Berber stronghold high in the Rif Mountains, founded by Moorish exiles from Spain in the 1490's. Enjoy lunch or coffee in the tranquil main square. Back to Tangier this evening. **[B]**

March 15th: SEVILLE Our intercontinental journey takes 35 minutes today on our ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain. We arrive in the historic city of Seville (probably the setting for more operas than any other city). **[B,D]**

March 16th: SEVILLE A Moorish city, Seville was conquered by the Catholic King Ferdinand III in 1248. The Moorish architecture still dominates the city. The two centuries following Columbus' voyages were the Golden Age of Seville as all trade from the Americas passed through the city. Buildings from this era – the cathedral and the Plaza de Espana – feature in today's city sightseeing. **[B]**

March 17th: SEVILLE We visit the Islamic Alcazar Palace this morning and the remainder of the day is free for shopping. **[B]**

March 18th: GRANADA We take the high speed ATR train today, and stop over for a visit to Cordoba on the way to Granada. Our city sightseeing tour of Cordoba includes the UNESCO listed historic centre of Cordoba, shaped successively by the Romans, Arabs,



Jews and Christians. The Moorish Catholic cathedral was formerly, and obviously, a mosque until the expulsion of the Moors in 1492. Later, our ATR delivers us to Granada where our luggage awaits our arrival. **[B,D]**

March 19th: GRANADA Andalusia was under Moorish (Muslim) control from the 8th century until the expulsion of both Moors and Jews by the Catholic monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. Perhaps the greatest gift to the world from this period is the UNESCO listed Alhambra, with its inspiring Moorish architecture and beautiful squares, gardens and fountains. It is the focus of our city sightseeing today. **[B]**

March 20th: GRANADA Today we enjoy the magnificent Generalife Gardens. Then in the afternoon, wander the timeless streets to absorb the unique history of Granada. The Gothic Catholic cathedral containing the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Grand Via and the Hospital Real should be included in your strolling. **[B]**

March 21st: MADRID As our luggage is taken on ahead, the high speed AVE train takes us to Spain's new (since 1561) capital, Madrid. Located in the borderlands between the historic enemies Aragon and Castile - joined with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella - Madrid was favoured by Philip II who moved his court there. **[B,D]**

March 22nd: MADRID Our city sightseeing tour introduces us to historic palaces and glass skyscrapers, Real Madrid's soccer stadium and an active bullfighting ring. It is a sprawling city of almost 7 million, a modern

European capital. **[B]**

March 23rd: MADRID One of the world's great art galleries is the Prado in Madrid. Spain controlled Italy and the Netherlands long enough to gather a magnificent collection of Flemish and Italian Renaissance art. **[B]**

March 24th: BARCELONA Our highspeed AVE train delivers us quickly to Spain's second largest city Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, where our luggage awaits. It was founded by the Romans, and has a proud spirit of independence from the rest of Spain. Catalan is the first language; Spanish the second. **[B]**

March 25th: BARCELONA This morning's sightseeing begins with visits to the Mirador de Colon and the Placa Reial and winds up at Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Família cathedral. **[B]**

March 26th: BARCELONA Barcelona lends itself to aimless wandering and people watching, and La Rambla ranks with Paris' Champs Elysees as the best place in Europe to do it. Later, take the funicular to the top of Montjuic for a fine view of Barcelona and its harbor. Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

March 27th: FAREWELL Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. **[B]**

HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE THE CULTURAL CAPITALS OF MOROCCO AND THE SOUTH OF SPAIN WITH 3 NIGHTS EACH IN:

- Marrakech, Fes, Tangier, Granada, Seville, Madrid & Barcelona

INCLUDED DAY VISIT TO:

- Cordoba

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First class rail travel in reserved seats
- Quality 4 star city centre hotels with buffet breakfasts
- 7 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Local expert guides
- Full time Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal



Stan Klan

Your Tour Director is Mr Stan Klan of Toowoomba, Qld, a published Australian historian and the Principal of Great Trains of Europe Tours. Stan has more than 30 years' experience in history teaching and tour guiding.

...with
**Floriade 2022
and
The Chelsea
Flower
Show**

BLOSSOMS & BULBS

Dutch Bulbfields, Floriade 2022, Chateaux Gardens of France, English Villages & Gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show.

May 7th: AMSTERDAM The tour commences at check-in to our city centre hotel, our home for four nights. We rest from the flight, or take an afternoon canal cruise to get our bearings, before meeting our fellow travellers for a Welcome Drink and Dinner. **[D]**

May 8th: AMSTERDAM Every day on the Great Trains of Europe Tours begins with a full buffet breakfast. We spend a full day in one of the world's finest bulbfields, the Keukenhof Garden, with 80 acres of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other flowering bulbs, shrubs, ancient trees, exhibitions, gurgling streams, flower parades, and seven themed gardens. There are restaurants and tea shops. **[B]**

May 9th: AMSTERDAM An early start to visit the world's largest flower market at Aarlsmeer, where 19 million stems are auctioned everyday. In the afternoon we visit the historic and beautiful Dutch city of Delft, home of Vermeer, and imagine what Amsterdam might have looked like centuries ago. **[B]**

May 10th: AMSTERDAM 2022 is the year of the world-famous once-a-decade FLORIADE Expo. The town of Almere, less than 30 minutes from our Amsterdam hotel, hosts the event this decade. We enjoy a full day at Floriade. **[B]**

May 11th: PARIS A great rail journey today. Our luggage is taken on ahead as we take our reserved First Class seats in the sleek Thalys train, for Paris at 300kph. On arrival we settle in to our 4 star hotel on the Left Bank. On our city sightseeing tour we begin our acquaintance with the City of Lights. **[B,D]**

May 12th: PARIS A quiet morning to stroll in the nearby Luxembourg Gardens or to visit a museum. Monet's waterlilies are finally on view in their original context at l'Orangerie. See them in real life this afternoon on our visit to Giverny and Monet's Garden. We enjoy the flower garden called Clos Normand and the water garden with its famous Japanese Bridge covered with wisteria, which should be at its best this week. Then the weeping willows, and the famous nymphs (water lilies). **[B]**

May 13th: PARIS A high speed French TGV train today into the Loire Valley and the Garden of Villandry, created by Dr Joachim Carvallo, from 1906, in complete harmony with the Renaissance architecture

of the chateau. Great horticultural skill was deployed, especially in the use of vegetables. An arbour of grape vines leads to a great parterre, conceived as a Garden of Music. On the other side of the canal is a Garden of Love. **[B]**

May 14th: NORTH YORK MOORS Another of the great rail journeys of the world as we farewell Paris and join the 300 kph Eurostar through the Channel Tunnel. Customs requires that we travel with our luggage today. In London we join British Rail in the tracks of the Flying Scotsman to the mediaeval city of York. We see the Minster and the Shambles, then transfer to our inn in the North York Moors village of Pickering. A pub dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

May 15th: NORTH YORK MOORS This morning we visit the gardens of Castle Howard, laid out by Sir John Vanburgh in the early 18th century. Castle Howard is the palace of the Flyte family in "Brideshead Revisited". We lunch (with Claude Jeremiah Greengrass?) in the village of Goathland, "Aidensfield" in the TV series "Heartbeat". Here we join the historic North York Moors Steam Railway home to Pickering. **[B]**

May 16th: NORTH YORK MOORS This morning we visit historic Harewood House. Its garden is classic Capability Brown - forming an idyllic rural setting. We move on to the spa and garden town of Harrogate for a cream tea or a stroll around its famous gardens. Can you spot Agatha Christie? She "disappeared" here in 1926. **[B]**

May 17th: LAKE DISTRICT We journey this morning through the Yorkshire Dales, immortalized in James Heriot's "All Creatures Great and Small" novels and television series. A village pub lunch stop, then on to the Lake District where we settle into our Lakeside hotel. **[B,D]**

May 18th: LAKE DISTRICT We take a magical rail journey today through some of the Dales' and England's finest scenery on the historic Settle to Carlisle Railway. A pub lunch, an afternoon cream tea and visits to some more of the Yorkshire Dales' picturesque villages. **[B]**

May 19th: LAKE DISTRICT This morning we visit a very special Lakeland garden, Holehird, which specialises in Lakeland flora and offers sweeping views of Lake Windermere. A bit of whimsy on the way home: we drop in on Beatrix Potter's garden, Hill Top - watch out for the fierce bad rabbit. **[B]**

May 20th: COTSWOLDS Our British Rail journey south today brings us to the Peak District of Derbyshire, to visit the gardens of historic Chatsworth House, dating from 1687. Another Capability Brown garden, Chatsworth has been famous for its beauty since Jane Austen's Day. We move on in the late afternoon to the Cotswolds where we stay in a village inn in the pretty riverside village of Bourton-on-the Water. **[B,D]**

May 21st: COTSWOLDS This morning's sightseeing takes us to picturesque Cotswold villages of honey-golden stone: Lower Slaughter, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Campden. After a village pub lunch we visit one of England's favourite gardens - Hidcote Manor, designed and developed by Major Lawrence Johnston, who scoured the world to secure rare and exotic species for this extremely pretty garden, a series of "outdoor rooms". **[B]**

May 22nd: COTSWOLDS Today we visit Stowe Landscape Gardens, covering 750 acres and including 40 listed historic monuments and temples. It is considered one of England's most important landscape gardens and the greatest names in

**SOLO
TRAVELLERS
PAY NO
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURES:

MAY 7th 2022

\$AU 12,950 per person twin share
Children under 12 sharing adults
room stay free.

Single room at no supplement
Enquire about competitive airfares

English garden design were involved in its creation from Bridgeman in the 1710s to Vanbrugh, Kent, Gibbs and "Capability" Brown. Afternoon tea in the Cotswold village of Burford, serious about antiques. **[B]**

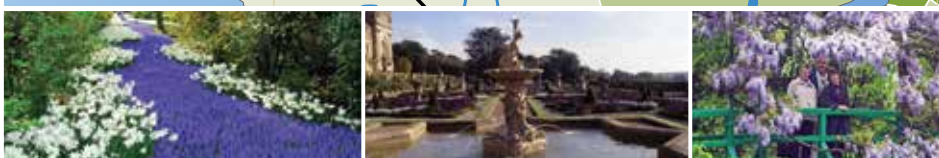
May 23rd: LONDON Back on British Rail today we journey through more of the Cotswolds' rolling hills, as our luggage is taken on ahead to await our arrival in our London hotel. We enjoy London's sights this afternoon. The Oxford Street shops are only a bus ride away from the hotel. A West End Show tonight? **[B]**

May 24th: LONDON The Oxford Street shops or Harrods this morning before an afternoon excursion to the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Garden, where keen English gardeners have gone to be inspired for over 100 years. Spread out over 240 acres, Wisley is a lovely, peaceful place for a stroll as well as a demonstration garden full of practical garden design ideas and cultivation techniques. **[B]**

May 25th: LONDON "When a man (person) is tired of London, s/he is tired of life," spoke Dr Johnson. Today we have a full day to do the London of the tourists commencing with the Changing of the Guard. Perhaps you would like to join your Tour Director in a visit to the famous Kew Gardens in London this afternoon. **[B,D]**

May 26th: LONDON A full day today at the Chelsea Flower Show, arguably, the world's greatest and best known. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

May 27th: HEADING HOME Our tour ends this morning after breakfast. **[B]**
Or you may choose to join us for an incredible 4-day add-on tour of the Austrian Alps. Including a performance of the once a decade Oberammergau Passion Play.



BLOSSOMS AND BULBS

SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL

LEGENDARY SILK ROAD

ADD-ON TOUR

**WITNESS THE
ONCE-A-DECADE**

OBERAMMERGAU

**PASSION PLAY
WITH**

4 DAYS IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS

Day 1: Arrival in Igls & our Austrian Alpine Chalet

Day 2: Day tour of Innsbruck, ride to top of Alps

Day 3: Day tour of Oberammergau
Passion Play performance

Day 4: Free day in Igls

Day 5: Departure from Munich Airport

COST: \$1,950 pp twin share
\$2,450 single

Includes: Flight from London to Germany, the Passion Play performance and 4 nights in the Austrian Alps hotel with breakfasts, and a transfer to Munich Airport on the last morning.



HIGHLIGHTS

A full day at
FLORIADE 2022

A full day at
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

GARDENS

- Keukenhof Gardens
- Kew Gardens
- Monet's Garden
- Villandry
- Castle Howard
- Harewood
- Holehird
- Chatsworth
- Stowe
- Hidcote
- Wisley

RAIL JOURNEYS

- High Speed Thalys
- English Channel Eurostar
- Tracks of the Flying Scotsman
- North York Moors Steam Railway
- Settle to Carlisle Historic Railway

SIGHTS

- "Heartbeat Country"
- Heriot's Yorkshire Dales
- Lake District
- Cotswold Villages

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre hotels
- 3 or 4 star historic village inns
- 6 dinners
- Full luggage handling [not on Eurostar]
- Local expert garden guides [where permitted]
- Full time Australian Historian Tour Director who is the Company Principal

SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL CHASING THE NORTHERN LIGHT

By popular demand we repeat this tour for a fourth year. We have a later departure in 2022 to increase our chances of seeing the Northern Lights.

October 15th: COPENHAGEN Arrive today in Copenhagen and rest from your flight. Meet your fellow travellers tonight at the Welcome Dinner.

[D]

October 16th: COPENHAGEN Discover “beautiful, beautiful” Copenhagen on this morning's city sightseeing tour. This afternoon why not take a canal cruise and discover Copenhagen from this unique perspective, and visit the Little Mermaid. [B]

October 17th: COPENHAGEN A free day to visit more of Copenhagen's museums and palaces. [B]

October 18th: STOCKHOLM Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join our Swedish high speed X2 tilt train, commencing our love affair with the great trains of Europe, departing Denmark across “The Bridge” – made famous in the eponymous Nordic noir thriller TV series. We break the journey for a visit to the historic University and cathedral town of Lund, then continue to Stockholm. [B,D]

October 19th: STOCKHOLM On this morning's sightseeing tour we discover Sweden's capital where “modernity meets tranquillity”, the home of IKEA, Volvo and ABBA. Founded in the Stone Age, Stockholm is spread across 14 islands. A highlight will be the City Hall, where the Nobel Prize banquet ceremonies take place, and the Vasa Ship Museum. [B]

October 20th: STOCKHOLM A free day to enjoy some of Stockholm's many fine museums. Your Tour Director will accompany those interested to the highly acclaimed Skansen open air folk museum. [B]

October 21st: OSLO On an Intercity train today, we cross the border to Norway and her capital Oslo, where our luggage awaits our arrival. [B,D]

October 22nd: OSLO Our morning city sightseeing includes the Akershus Fortress, and the Opera House. In the afternoon why not visit the National Gallery and see Edward Munch's famous painting “The Scream”. [B]

October 23rd: OSLO A free day for sightseeing – Vigelandspark Sculpture Park, the Viking Museum, the Kon Tiki Museum and the Holmenkollen Ski Jump (for magnificent views of the city). [B]

October 24th: FLAM Today's train journey across Europe's highest mountain plateau, and down the steep descent into the village of Flam is repeatedly voted “the world's best train ride”. Tiny Flam, nestled on the water's edge is our home for 2 nights. Our luggage awaits. [B,D]

October 25th: FLAM This morning's exploration around Flam includes an ascent to the Stegastein Lookout for breathtaking views down to the

water 2,000 feet below. After lunch take one of the many local walking trails for sweeping fjord views. [B]

October 26th: BERGEN Our luggage is taken on ahead as we cruise down the fjord today, enjoying more spectacular scenery to join the Bergen railway into Norway's second city. There will be time this afternoon to get to know this city, before dinner in Bergen's oldest restaurant in the historic waterfront area. [B,D]

October 27th: BERGEN We commence our sightseeing tour of Bergen with a funicular ride to the top of Floyen, one of the seven mountains surrounding Bergen. The views across the city and harbour are stunning. Back at the bottom we walk among the old wooden houses along Bryggen – the historic wharf area now included on UNESCO's world heritage list. [B]

October 28th: BERGEN Bergen was the home of Norway's greatest composer Edward Grieg, and this morning's sightseeing focuses on his life and work. A free afternoon. [B]

October 29th: BERGEN – COASTAL FERRY A free morning to enjoy the waterfront or climb some more of Bergen's 7 mountains, before our afternoon transfer to board our coastal ferry for the 2 day journey along the coast and through the fjords of Norway's West Coast. [B,D]

October 30th: COASTAL FERRY Enjoy the views of the fjords from your cabin or from the deck of our ferry. This is not just a tourist ferry, but the regular supply ship serving the coastal communities all the way up Norway's West Coast. [B,L,D]

October 31st: TRONDHEIM Arrive today in Trondheim and settle into our overnight hotel. Our sightseeing of this historic city – a former capital of Norway – includes the cathedral, the waterfront, and the Old Town. [B,D]

November 1st: BODO Our final and most Northerly train journey today – the Nordland, beyond the Arctic Circle – with sweeping coastal views to Bodo. In the Tour Director's humble opinion, this is one of the great rail journeys of the world. Given the local terrain, we travel today with our luggage. [B]

November 2nd: BODO Our final day in Norway: explore this coastal town with a tragic World War II history, do your last minute souvenir hunting and take one last sundowner on the waterfront before our Farewell Dinner. [B] [D]

November 3rd: FAREWELL Fly today to Oslo or Copenhagen, where our tour ends on arrival. Or you may choose to join us for a fascinating 7 day Add-on tour of Iceland.



HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS

DISCOVER SCANDINAVIA'S 3 MODERN CAPITALS:

- Copenhagen
- Stockholm
- Oslo

ENJOY SCANDINAVIA'S GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS

- High Speed Swedish X2
- Flam Railway
- Bergen Railway
- Norland Railway crossing the Arctic Circle

EXPLORE SCANDINAVIA'S SENSATIONAL SCENERY

- Inland fjord cruise
- 2 night coastal fjord cruise

For detailed Booking Conditions please visit
www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 star city centre boutique hotels
- 9 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Full time Historian / Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 20 DAYS

DEPARTURE:
OCTOBER 15th, 2022

COST: Land Only Content
(Starts in Copenhagen, ends in Oslo or Copenhagen)

\$AU 14,950 per person twin share
Enquire about competitive airfares
Single room supplement \$3,500



ICELAND ADD-ON TOUR

POST-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL TOUR:

Enjoy Iceland's magical scenery – waterfalls, lagoons, geysers, volcanoes, glaciers – on this autumn visit, with a strong likelihood of a Northern Lights viewing. Flights from Norway at the end of the Scandinavia by Rail Tour, and on to London at the end of the Iceland Add-On are included.

Day 1: Arrival in Reykjavik

Day 2: Day tour to Golden Circle

Day 3: Day tour to South Coast

Day 4: Day tour to Reykjanes and Blue Lagoon

Day 5: Day tour to Snæfellsnes

Day 6: Free Day in Reykjavik

Day 7: Departure from Reykjavik

**COST: \$5,500 pp twin share.
\$1000 single supplement.**



BOOKING CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is an accredited Travel Agent. We are members of IATA (Licence #96836610).

COSTS: Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at November 11th, 2020. 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 20kgs 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 are generally not 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."



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Jackie Wood, Melbourne

(5 time tour member on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)