



RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR ITALY/FRANCE

Rome (2) Overnight train (1) Nice (3) Paris (3)

Day One - Depart Calgary International Airport for Toronto with connections to Rome, Italy. Enjoy in flight meals and services.

Day Two - You will be met at the **Leonardo da Vinci** airport in **Rome** by the **RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS** representative who will be with you for the entire time you are in Italy. Then you will be transferred to your hotel after checking into the hotel you will be given an orientation of the area and a walking tour. Dinner and overnight Rome.

Day Three – First day of sightseeing in this ancient city. Let the magic of this bustling city grows on you! Today your sightseeing takes you to the ruins of the Roman Forum which was the center of the then-known world 2000 years ago, on to the enormous **Colosseum** which could hold more than 50,000 spectators, and then along the **Via Appia Antica** to the Catacombs. Entrance is included to one of these underground Christian cemeteries. After lunch you will continue your tour with your escort. Dinner and overnight Rome.

Day Four - This morning you will have a half day guided sightseeing to **Vatican City** including the incredible **Vatican Museum** and **St. Peter's Basilica**. The tiny state has its own flag, anthem, coins, and stamps. The Vatican collections in the museum house beautiful frescoes, paintings and numerous jeweled chalices and religious artifacts. The highlight of the tour will no doubt be Michelangelo's magnificent **Sistine Chapel**. You will also see the **Castel Sant'Angelo** on the banks of the **Tiber** and stroll in the enormous circular area surrounded by **Bernini's** columns known as St. Peter's Square. Inside the huge basilica is another of Michelangelo's famous works, the Pieta. Dominating the apse of the cathedral is the great bronze throne created by Bernini known as St. Peter's Throne. You will continue your tour with your escort have dinner and then board the overnight train to Paris. Your night journey will be in couchettes which is a popular way for Europeans to travel. Make sure you pack some food for your breakfast on the train.

Day Five - This morning you are met by your coach and guide for a bus tour and this afternoon you will have a walking tour of **Nice** with a local guide. Then the balance of the day will be free for your own exploring in Nice. The pedestrian malls and central shopping area make this a beautiful place to browse. There are also some interesting little museums to visit, as well as the beautiful promenade and **Main Square**. Visit the

Old Town, the prettiest part of Nice, to see **St-Francois-de-Paule** church, the **Opera House** and place **Garibaldi** with its yellow-ocher buildings and formal fountains. You may wish to visit the **Musee Chagall** on the **boulevard de Cimiez** near the Roman ruins. The collection includes the 17 huge canvasses of "The Message of the Bible" which took 13 years to complete. There is also the **Musee Matisse**. The pedestrian malls and central shopping area make this a beautiful place to browse. There are also some interesting little museums to visit, as well as the beautiful promenade and Main Square. Spend time strolling through the charming Old Town. If weather permitting, you may wish to spend the day on the **beach!** Dinner and overnight Nice.

Day Six - Today you will have guided full day excursion with a local along the coast to the wonderful little villages in the hills above Nice, including **St. Paul de Vence** and **Grasse**- home of the perfume factories. Stop for lunch and some free time in **Cannes** before visiting a perfume factory in **Grasse**. Return to Nice for dinner and overnight.

Day Seven - Today you have a full day guided excursion by coach along the scary **Haute Corniche** to **Monte Carlo**, the capital of **MONACO**. You may wish to visit the **Musee Oceanographique**, which houses **Jacques Cousteau's CALYPSO**. Highlights of Monte Carlo include the **Royal Palace** and the very ornate Casino. You will have time at leisure to stroll about Monaco. You will return to Nice via the picturesque little village of **Eze (if time permitting)**, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. Dinner and overnight in Nice.

Day Eight - After breakfast you will be picked-up at the Hotel by coach and transferred to the train station where you will catch the **TGV** train to **Paris**. You will arrive and be met by the local guide and coach then have a half day guided tour of Paris. Your sightseeing takes you around the major monuments of Paris. The **Tour Eiffel**, (get your cameras ready at the **Palais de Chaillot** photo stop), the **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Madeleine**, the sumptuous **Opera Garnier**, the **Ile de la Cite** with **Notre Dame** and is **Sainte Chapelle** and many other sights and then be transferred to your hotel. There will be time to check in at the hotel before your orientation. You will have an orientation, which includes the famous **Parisian Metro** and the area where you are staying. The Metro in Paris consists of 18 lines, over 350 stations and transports over five million people each weekday: You will soon feel confident about traveling on the convenient Paris **Metro**. Take an evening stroll in the **Place de La Concorde** for your first glimpse or the floodlit monuments of Paris, notably the **Arc de Triomphe** at the head of the long **Champs Elysees**, the fountains and obelisk of **Concorde**. As you gaze around the spacious place it is hard to imagine the guillotine set up here during the French Revolution and the many heads that rolled. You will climb to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. Dinner and return to hotel for overnight.

Day Nine - After breakfast you will travel by Metro to the **Louvre** where you will have a guided visit of the **Palais du Louvre** where you will see Leonardo Da Vinci's **Mona Lisa**, the **Venus de Milo**, the **Raft of the Medusa** by Thèodore Gèricault, and several other famous works of art. Then you will meet at **Rue Saint**

Honore, in front of the **Palais Royal**. You will board the bus for the excursion to **Versailles**. Entrance is included to see the **Grands Appartements** of the royal living quarters and the beautiful **Galerie des Glaces** also known as the Hall of Mirrors. Return to Paris. You will have dinner and then you will go to the third level of the Eiffel Tower. Then return to hotel for overnight.

Day Ten - This is your last day in Paris so this will be your last time to for some shopping later this afternoon, take the metro to **Montmartre**. You will climb the steps up to the white **Basilica of Sacré Coeur** gleaming high above Paris. Go around the corner to the nearby Place du Tertre where artist have set up their easels, and perhaps have your portrait sketched. In the beginning of the 19th century renowned artists Théodore Géricault and Camille Carot came to this place, and since then Montmartre has been associated with art and artists. You will have dinner in a local restaurant at **Montmartre**, and then travel by metro to the docks where you will embark on a scenic cruise down the Seine River on one of the **Bateaux Parisiens** for a glimpse of Paris by night.

Day Eleven – After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your flight home to Canada.

Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Calgary/ Rome return Paris/Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada/British Airways
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and dinners daily
- 8 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms (mostly triples) with individual beds and bathrooms
- Services of the RAINBOW representatives in Rome, Paris and Nice
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours (in French if requested) as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Overnight train with couchettes Rome to Nice.
- Services of the RAINBOW educational consultant before departure including materials for the students, meetings with parents,
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, Baggage and Default
- Airport Tax
- Entrance to the Catacombs
- Entrance to the Colosseum and the Forum
- Entrance to the Vatican Museums
- Boat Ride on the Bateaux Parisiens
- Carnet (10) Metro tickets
- Entrance to the top of the Arc De Triomphe
- Entrance to the third level of the Eiffel Tower
- Entrance to Versailles
- Entrance to the Louvre
- Entrance to the Jacques Cousteau's Musée Oceanographique

Not Included:

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Lunches
- Passport and Visa Fees (if necessary)
- Extra Beverages with meals
- Optional tours, excursions and activities
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required
- Any new fuel surcharges or taxes imposed by the airlines.**

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