



# RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

## Proposed Itinerary For:

**Italy & France**

**12 Days/ 10 Nights**

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**Rome (3) Florence (1) Venice (1) Overnight Train (1) Nice (2) Paris (2)**

**Day One** -: Leave Calgary International airport in the early evening via wide-bodied jet to **Rome, Italy**. Enjoy in-flight meals and services

**Day Two** -: You will arrive into **Rome** airport clear customs and then be met by your escort, coach and then to transferred to your hotel. There will be time to check into your hotel and then you will be given an orientation of the area. Dinner and overnight

**Day Three** -: Let the magic of this bustling city grow on you! Today your sightseeing takes you to the heart of ancient Rome starting at the **Piazza Venezia** with the dominating white marble monument to **Victor Emmanuel**. Visit the ruins of the Roman Forum, which was the center of the then-known world 2000 years ago, and continue on to the enormous **Colosseum** (entrance included), which could hold more than 50,000 spectators, and the nearby Arch of Constantine. Then travel along the Via Appia Antica to the **Catacombs**. Entrance is included to one of these underground Christian cemeteries. Your guide will take you in the afternoon to visit some of the well-known landmarks of Rome best seen on foot such as the **Piazza Navona** and the **Trevi Fountain**. Overnight at your hotel

**Day Four** -: 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 may wish to climb up to the top of the **Dome of the Cathedral** for a splendid view of the city. Return to your hotel for overnight.

**Day Five** -: This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to the station and then you will take the train for one of the cities of Europe high on everyone's 'must-see' list: **Florence**. You will depart by train # **9464** at **8:55 am** and arrive into **Florence at 10:31**. Founded by Julius Caesar, every great artist of the **Italian Renaissance** has examples of work here, either in architecture or in the very select Uffizi Gallery. The English poet Browning lived here with his poetess wife,

Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Elizabeth is buried in the cemetery here and her little dog lies under one of the flagstones in the garden of their home here. The shopping is marvelous! Transfer to your hotel and overnight. Your escort will give you an orientation of the area you are staying. This afternoon you will have a tour of the **Uffizi gallery**. Dinner and overnight Florence.

**Day Six** -: This morning you have included in the tour, entrance to the **Accademia** where **Michelangelo's** famous statue of **David** draws visitors from all over the world as it has done throughout the centuries since it was completed. You will then have self guided touring maybe start at the **Piazza del Duomo** with its magnificent Cathedral There is so much to see in Florence: **the Ponte Vecchio, the Medici Chapels, the Straw Market, Giotto's Tower, Pitti Palace...** the list goes on. You will be able to shop for bargains in leathers, linens and straw goods. Visit the Church of **Santa Croce** where Michelangelo and Galileo are buried. You will take the train # **9470** at **2:39 PM** to **Venice** and arrive at **5:28 PM** transfer to the hotel and then have dinner.

**Day Seven** -: This morning you will be met by your guide for a guided sight seeing of the "**city of canals**"- Venice. **Venice** is a unique Italian city with a proud history. Start at the **Piazza San Marco** opening on the **Grand Canal**. Visit the **Cathedral of San Marco** sometimes known as the "golden church" because of its magnificent mosaics on gilded backgrounds. See **the Doge's Palace**, symbol of Venetian power and glory. The **Bridge of Sighs** connects the palace with the prisons and owes its name to the sighs of the prisoners who crossed it en route to their execution. Enjoy the unique atmosphere of Venice with the boats plying their trade on the Grand Canal and the **Rialto Bridge** with its distinctive steps. You will have dinner and then take the overnight train to Nice. You depart at **10:52 PM** on train # **358** and arrive into Nice at **9:43 AM**. You will have couchettes and find it a very comfortable way to travel. **MAKE SURE YOU TAKE SOME FOOD FOR YOUR BREAKFAST!!**

**Day Eight** -: Today you will have guided full day excursion with Virginie 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 Nine** -: Today you have the chance of a life time, which is you have a day on the French Riviera. There are so many things to do, perhaps visit another museum? Maybe go to the beach? Maybe shop in the market? Maybe sleep in? Overnight and dinner in Nice

**Day Ten** -: 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, departing at 9:36 Am and arriving at 3:07 in Paris**. You will be met by your guide and a coach for a sightseeing tour which 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. 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 have dinner and then return to hotel for overnight.

**Day Eleven -:** After breakfast you will travel by Metro to the **Louvre** to see the **Mona Lisa** and the **Venus de Milo** at **9:45 AM**. There will be time for lunch on your own in the Louvre. You will board the bus for the excursion to **Versailles** at **2:30 PM**. 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 where the bus will drop you off at the steps up to **Montmartre** where the white **Basilica of Sacre-Coeur** places of perpetual pilgrimage that gleams high above Paris. Visit the Basilica and then go round the corner to the nearby **Place du Tertre** where *artists* have set up their easels, and perhaps have your portrait sketched you will have your final dinner at **Montmartre**. Return to the hotel for your final night in Paris.

**Day Twelve -:** You will be transferred to the airport where you will catch your flight back to Canada.

**Included in the Cost of the Tour:**

- Airfare Calgary/ Rome return Paris/Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Lufthansa/Air Canada/British Airways
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and dinners daily
- 9 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms
- Overnight train to Nice in couchettes.
- Services of the RAINBOW representatives in Paris and Nice
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of the RAINBOW educational consultant before departure including materials for the students, meetings with parents,
- Airport Tax

**Not Included:**

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Lunches
- Passport
- Visa Fees (if necessary)
- Extra Beverages with meals
- Optional tours, excursions and activities
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, Baggage and Default
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required

**-Fuel surcharges imposed by airlines or any new taxes****RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

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