

# THAMES TO THE TIBER

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** London (2), Paris (3), Montreux (2) Florence (2), Rome (2)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** London City Tour • Windsor Castle • Canterbury Cathedral • Paris City Tour • Versailles • Montreux • Castle of Chillon • Florence City Tour • Orvieto • Rome City Tour • Vatican City Tour

**OPTIONS:** Bateaux Mouche Cruise



**DAY 1** Depart for Europe.

**DAY 2 LONDON** Welcome to London! Your TSA Tours representative awaits to escort you to your hotel.

**DAY 3 LONDON** On your **London City Tour** see Piccadilly Circus, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's and Big Ben. Continue to Westminster where you'll tour the formidable Westminster Abbey, site of numerous royal weddings and coronations. The first King crowned at Westminster was William I in 1066. Highlights include the Coronation Chair and Screen, the monument of the Unknown Warrior and Poet's Corner with its monuments to Chaucer, Longfellow and Thomas. Continue to **Windsor Castle**, the largest castle still inhabited, and weekend retreat of Queen Elizabeth and the royal family. See the Round Tower built by William the Conqueror, St. George's Chapel, the State Apartments and Queen Mary's Dolls' House.

**DAY 4 PARIS** Visit the famous **Canterbury Cathedral** before traveling via the Channel Tunnel to France.

**DAY 5 PARIS** *Bon jour!* Discover the City of Light on a **Paris City Tour**. See the magnificent Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées, the majestic Eiffel Tower, the

Trocadero, Les Invalides, Palais du Luxembourg, the Pantheon and the historic Latin Quarter. Continue to the Ile de la Cité and the Gothic masterpiece, Notre Dame, the Conciergerie and the Palais de

Justice. Then on to the Louvre, Jardin des Tuileries and the stunning Place de la Concorde with its 3,300 year old Obélisque from Luxor. Then tour the Palace of Versailles to explore its fabulous galleries, including the Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I. Stroll through the fabulous formal gardens. Tonight you have the **option** of a Bateaux Mouche cruise on the Seine River. View the monuments of France from a unique perspective as you take in the brilliance of the lights of Paris after nightfall. Sail past the Eiffel Tower, the Trocadero, the Grand Palais, the Petit Palais, the Palais du Tokyo, the Alexandre III Bridge, the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris and the Petit Pont, the smallest bridge in the city. Glide between the Ile de la Cité and the Ile St.-Louis, and be sure to make a wish as you pass under the Pont Marie - it's guaranteed to come true!

**DAY 6 MONTREUX** Drive through the vineyards (some of them planted in pre-Roman times) of the Rhône Valley on your way to the Swiss town of Montreux.

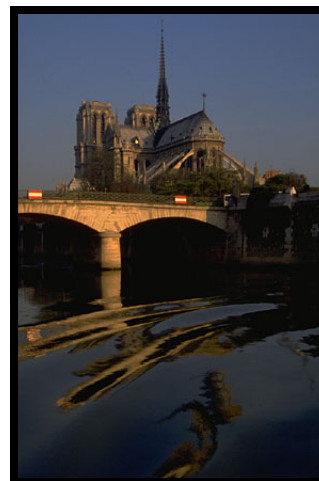
**DAY 7 MONTREUX** Discover the resort of Montreux on Lake Geneva. The charm of its setting ranges from gardens on the lakeside,

through the Alpine meadows high above. Also, enjoy an excursion to the **Castle of Chillon**, made famous by Lord Byron in his poem *Prisoner of Chillon*.

**DAY 8 FLORENCE** Travel through the snow-capped Swiss Alps to *Firenze*, the artistic and intellectual capital of the nation. It was in Florence that the Renaissance began nearly 500 years ago. Modern Florence still reflects the glory of its past in the architecture of Brunelleschi, Giotto and Alberti; the sculpture of Pisano, Donatello and Cellini; and the paintings of Lippi, Boticelli and da Vinci. Combined with the spectacular genius of Michelangelo, the brilliance of the era is unparalleled.

**DAY 9 FLORENCE** *Buon giorno!* On your **Florence City Tour**, visit the Accademia, home to Michelangelo's famous sculpture, *David*. You will also see the Church of San Lorenzo, the Ponte Vecchio, the Bargello, the Piazza del Duomo with its cathedral and baptistery, and other highlights of this important art center. Shop for bargains in the Straw Market or for jewelry on the Ponte Vecchio this afternoon.

**DAY 10 ROME** Travel to Rome via **Orvieto**, where you'll take the funicular up to the Orvieto Cathedral in the Piazza del Duomo. The exquisite cathedral is



one of the most colorful examples of Italian Gothicism.

**DAY 11 ROME** Today you're off on a **Rome City Tour**. See Palatine Hill, Circus Maximus (seating capacity: 250,000!), the Arch of Constantine, the Imperial Forums, Piazza Venezia, the Monument to Vittorio Emmanuel, and visit the Colosseum. Then on to Capitoline Hill where you'll enjoy a spectacular view of the Roman Forum. Next cross the Tiber and leave Italy behind as you enter the independent city-state of the **Vatican**. See Bernini's legacy, St. Peter's Square, where 284 Doric columns and 140 saints ring this oval 'square' encompassing a 2000 year old obelisk. Visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world. Covering over six acres, St. Peter's can accommodate 95,000 visitors. From St. Peter's, continue to the Vatican Museums. Among the impressive works is the Sistine Chapel's vault by Michelangelo. This stunning depiction of the Old Testament was completed in four years and is perhaps the single greatest work ever created. In the evening, enjoy a **walking tour** with your courier to the Pantheon, the Piazza Navona, the Spanish steps, and the beautiful Trevi Fountain. Be sure to toss in a coin to guarantee you'll return to *Roma* someday!

**DAY 12 DEPART** Return home with fabulous memories of Europe, from the Thames to the Tiber.

*For more information, please contact:*