

LONDON PARIS & BARCELONA

ITINERARY NIGHTS: London (2), Paris (2), Night Train (1), Barcelona (2)

HIGHLIGHTS: London City Tour • Windsor Castle • Canterbury Cathedral • Paris City Tour • The Louvre • Versailles • Barcelona City Tour

OPTIONS: London Theatre • Montserrat Tour



DAY 1 Depart for London.

DAY 2 LONDON Welcome to the largest city in Europe! A TSA Tours guide will meet you at the airport and escort you on a **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 royal weddings and coronations. The first King crowned at Westminster was William I in 1066. Highlights include the Coronation Chair and Screen, and Poet's Corner with its monuments to Chaucer, Milton, Thomas, Longfellow and other literary notables.

DAY 3 LONDON Explore Her Majesty's **Windsor Castle**, the largest castle in Europe still inhabited. See the Round Tower built by Henry II, St. George's Chapel, the State Apartments and Queen Mary's Dolls' House. **Option:** Attend an exciting West End theatre performance tonight.

DAY 4 PARIS Stop to visit majestic **Canterbury Cathedral**, the destination of Chaucer's pilgrims in his *Canterbury Tales*. Then travel to France via the

Chunnel under the English Channel, one of the greatest engineering marvels in history.

DAY 5 PARIS
Bienvenue à Paris!

On your **Paris City Tour** you will see all the highlights including the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Élysées, and l'Etoile with the Arc de Triomphe. Tour the Gothic masterpiece, **Notre Dame**. In this cathedral you will marvel at beautiful rose windows of stained glass, ornately crafted spires, and snarling gargoyles who act as guardians of all the glory. You'll also visit the **Louvre**—from I. M. Pei's modern pyramid to the ancient Egyptian sarcophaguses, the Louvre is the largest museum on earth! The Louvre was originally constructed in 1200 as a fortress. In the 17th century, the Louvre served as Louis XIII's palace and a favorite haunt of Alexandre Dumas' Musketeers. After the French revolution, the Louvre was opened as a museum and its fabulous collection was rightfully made accessible to the public. Among the priceless art treasures to see are the beautifully proportioned Venus de Milo, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa and the Winged Victory of Samothrace.

DAY 6 NIGHT TRAIN
Tour the Palace of **Versailles**, home of Louis XIV, the Sun King. See the magnificent Hall of Mirrors and imagine it filled with silk gowns and

powdered wigs, lit by thousands of candles. The mirrors, a luxurious rarity at the time, were a reflection of a time when aristocrats felt good about their looks and their fortunes. In another age altogether, this was the room in which the Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I. Stroll through the fabulous formal gardens and marvel at the splendor in which royalty lived. Every turn in a pathway presents new vistas, new fountains, new statues, trellised arbors, and trees trained and pruned into unusual shapes. See the Grand Trianon, the Petit Trianon, the Grand Canal and Marie Antoinette's "peasant village" Le Hameau. This evening, board your night train with couchettes and sleep comfortably as you travel towards the Olympic city of Barcelona, Spain.

DAY 7 BARCELONA *Bon dia* is Catalan for "good day." Welcome to a world capital of art, architecture and culture. On a **Barcelona City Tour** you will visit Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece, the surreal Church of La Sagrada Família. Also see Parc Güell, the Olympic Village, the Parque de la Ciudadela,



Barceloneta and its beaches, Barrio Gótico, Plaza de España, the Palacio Nacional, Gaudi's architectural curiosity, *La Pedrera*, and other highlights of this Catalonian city by the sea.

DAY 8 BARCELONA Today is free for additional sightseeing with your advisors. You may want to ramble down the central sidewalk of *Las Ramblas*, a long avenue made up of seven connected streets with different names and surroundings, where you will discover flower stalls, artists, street mimes, an outdoor bird market and great shopping. Along *La Rambla de Canaletes* you will find a fountain called *Font de Canaletes*. A legend says that if you drink its water, someday you'll come back to Barcelona. **Option:** Travel through mountain landscapes of fantastically eroded crags and terraces before arriving at the principal religious and cultural center of Catalonia, Montserrat. Here you will find a mysterious Black Virgin housed in the Benedictine abbey and see magnificent panoramas.

DAY 9 DEPART Return home with fond memories of your days in three of Europe's grandest cities.

For more information, please contact: