

Touring Europe by Rail

Rich, ancient, and incredibly diverse, the nations of Europe offer a vast array of sights, climates, cultures, and cuisines. The 10 trips outlined below show the full reach of the European rail system; feel free to mix and match parts of them to create your ideal vacation.

Where possible, we've used overnight trains on these trips, as they save you the cost of a hotel night, maximize your sightseeing time, and are a rail experience in and of themselves. Remember that overnight trains, the Eurostar trains, some French TGV trains, and Eurostar Italia trains require extra reservation fees over the price of your railpass. (See p. 37 for more on overnight trains.)

We've recommended railpasses for those itineraries below that would make good use of them; where point-to-point tickets are cheaper, we've noted that as well. (For an overview of when to buy a pass and when to go point to point, see p. 43.)

Exact train times and prices are subject to change—the details in these pages were accurate as of June 2005, but you should double-check all train schedules when plotting out your journey. For more on navigating rail schedules, see p. 31.

1 1-Week Itineraries

The average North American vacation is a mere 7 days long (we know, too short!). To help you make the best of your time in Europe, we've put together five 1-week rail itineraries that will give you a taste of some of the best Europe has to offer. Whether you're a royalty fanatic who can't get enough of the continent's magnificent palaces or a nature buff who'd rather tackle the magnificent scenery of Scandinavia, you'll find an itinerary below that will suit your needs. And if you happen to have more than a week to spend (lucky you!), you can mix and match these itineraries or check out the 2-week itineraries we offer in the next section.

ITINERARY 1 EUROPE'S BEST CASTLES & PALACES

Duration: 8 days, 7 nights

Best time of year: Spring or fall

Recommended passes: Second-class Eurail France-Germany 4-day railpass, plus Eurostar ticket

Arrive in: London

Depart from: Frankfurt

Europe is practically overflowing with medieval castles and ornate palaces. And many of these world-famous residences (and former residences) are open to exploration by those of us whose blood isn't royal blue. Touring all these bastions of nobility could

take years, but we've put together an itinerary that will introduce you to a few of the most noteworthy castles and palaces on the Continent and in London.

Day 1

Arrive in London (you'll need to take the red-eye, so catch some zzzzs on the flight). After checking into your hotel, head for a tour of **Buckingham Palace** in the morning, if it's open (only in summer); otherwise, take in the adjacent **Royal Mews** and the magnificent **Queen's Gallery**, both of which are open year-round and feature lots of fabulous royal treasures. Spend the afternoon exploring the **Tower of London**, an imposing castle complex built by William the Conqueror and home to Britain's fabulous crown jewels. If you have time, indulge in a traditional afternoon tea, or try a night out at the theater. See "London" in chapter 10 for more sightseeing options in this historic city.

Day 2

Fortify yourself with a good English breakfast before taking the Eurostar train on a jaunt (trip time: 2 hr. 53 min.) to Paris. If you've got time once you've settled into your hotel, visit the **Louvre**, which would be the largest palace in the world, if it were still a palace and not one of the world's greatest art museums. Pay homage to the *Mona Lisa*, the *Venus De Milo*, and 300,000 or so of their fellow artworks. It's a royal treat, palace or not. See "Paris" in chapter 8 for other things to do in the city.

Day 3

Get an early morning start and take the RER C-line commuter train (show your railpass at the ticket booth and get your free ticket—the pass itself isn't enough) out to **Versailles** (p. 279) and spend a half-day touring Louis XIV's masterpiece, a structure so magnificent that building it practically bankrupted the state treasury. Return to Paris in the afternoon for a stroll or some other sightseeing before taking an evening TGV high-speed train for the 1-hour ride to **Tours**, in the Loire

valley. Check into your hotel (see "Tours" in chapter 8 for accommodations options) and rest up.

Day 4

If ever there were a spot for castle lovers, it's the **Loire valley**. Unfortunately, it's not the most train-friendly locale in France, so the best way to see the region's famous castles is to get up early and take a full-day bus tour of the Loire châteaux. Tours leave at 9am daily from the city's tourist office and, alas, Tours sightseeing tours aren't covered by railpasses. Should you wish to explore on your own, a few châteaux are reachable from Tours by rail. Try the Gothic and Renaissance **Château Royal d'Amboise** or the historic **Château Royal de Blois**. Stay in Tours a second night. See "Tours" in chapter 8 for more châteaux excursions out of Tours.

Day 5

More châteaux! Take a 25-minute train ride to **Chenonceaux** (p. 292), noted for its startling river-spanning castle. Return to Tours for a final dinner, then take the 7:28pm TGV back to Gare Montparnasse in Paris, arriving at 8:55pm, to connect to the 10:55pm overnight train from Paris Est station to **Munich**, which arrives at 8:58am. (**Note:** You'll have to get from Montparnasse to Paris Est station by Metro or taxi, but you've got plenty of time to make the connection.)

Day 6

Check into your hotel upon arriving in Munich, then head off to the **Nymphenburg Palace** (p. 360), Germany's largest baroque palace. If the weather's good, be sure to stroll the surrounding Nymphenburg Park. At night you can raise a stein or two inside of the city's famous beer halls. For other nightlife options, check out "Munich" in chapter 9.

Itinerary 1: Europe's Best Castles & Palaces



Day 7

You've got a busy day. From the Munich Hauptbahnhof, take an early morning train to **Füssen** (trip time: 2 hr.). Take one of the hourly buses to **Neuschwanstein** (p. 367), Mad King Ludwig's fairy-tale folly. (This was the model for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle and the real thing is a heck of a lot better!) Next up is nearby **Hohenschwangau** (p. 368) and its famous

murals. Tour that castle (the line to get in should eat up the rest of your day) and then return to Munich for the evening.

Day 8

If you have an afternoon flight, you can tour the downtown **Residenz Palace** before heading off to the airport. Otherwise your castle hopping will come to an end as you fly home from Munich.

ITINERARY 2 SMALL CITIES OF THE BENELUX

Duration:	8 days, 7 nights
Best time of year:	Summer
Ideal passes:	Point-to-point tickets
Arrive in:	Amsterdam Schiphol
Depart from:	See below

Relaxing, romantic small cities can be an antidote to the typical European big-city bustle. Tack part of this itinerary onto a Paris or Amsterdam trip for a change of pace, or do the whole thing for a truly intimate week. All the Dutch and Belgian destinations in this itinerary are within a few hours of Amsterdam or Brussels, and you won't have to worry about catching a train at a specific time within Holland because all trains run on at least an hourly basis.

Day 1

Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol airport, and take a train from the station beneath the airport terminal directly to The Hague, just 50 minutes away. Check into your hotel for a 3-night stay. Once you're settled in, head for **Madurodam**, a fascinating scale-model replica of dozens of Dutch landmarks and attractions. After you've had your fill of miniatures, and if you still have time, take tram 1 all the way up to the beach resort of **Scheveningen** to see how the Dutch spend sunny days. See "The Hague" in chapter 14 for more information.

Day 2

Take local tram 1—not the train—from The Hague to **Delft** and spend the day in that charming city, strolling its atmospheric canals, touring its two churches, and visiting its renowned **Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof** (p. 637). Head back in the evening to The Hague and relax.

Day 3

In the morning, grab a train to **Haarlem**, a compact town just 35 minutes away that's ideal for strolling. Start first at its impressive **Grote Markt (market square)** and catch a recital on the 98-foot-tall (29m) organ inside the **Church of St. Bavo**. Finally, take in the city's finest attraction, the **Frans Hals Museum**, which sports both great art and a charming 17th-century setting. For more information, see "An Excursion to Haarlem" in chapter 14. In the afternoon, head back to The Hague and tour the **Mauritshuis**,

whose must-see art collection includes the quintessential Benelux city landscape—Vermeer's *View of Delft*—as well as Vermeer's famous *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.

Day 4

It's time to leave The Hague behind. Take a morning train to Antwerp's Centraal Station, store your luggage there, and then lose yourself on the streets of Antwerp, a hidden gem that's the capital of Europe's diamond trade. Don't miss the largest church in the Benelux, the **Cathedral of Our Lady**, situated right off the city's medieval and picturesque **Grote Markt**. For a touch of culture, visit the impressive **Rubens House**, where artist Peter Paul Rubens once lived and worked. For more on Antwerp, see "An Excursion to Antwerp" in chapter 4. In the evening, head back to the rail station and catch a 2-hour train to the city of Liège in the heart of Belgium's Wallonia province. Check into your hotel and give yourself a well-earned rest.

Day 5

Spend your day exploring the "Passionate City" of Liège. Don't miss the **Museum of Walloon Life** (p. 152), especially its fabulous puppet collection. The Romanesque **Church of St. Bartholomew** has a 12th-century baptismal font that's regarded as one of the greatest treasures in Belgium. For more options, see "Liège" in chapter 4.

Day 6

Eat an early breakfast before catching a train to your final base in the Benelux—the World Heritage city of **Bruges**. The

Itinerary 2: Small Cities of the Benelux



trip will take about 2 hours. Once you've settled into your hotel, wind your way through the medieval streets of Bruges, making sure to visit the city's famous **Belfry and Market Halls**, the **Begijnhof**, and the **Church of Our Lady** with its sculpture by Michelangelo. See "Bruges" in chapter 4 for more on the city.

Day 7

If you can draw yourself away from Bruges for the day, get on a train for the 20-minute ride to **Ghent**, another breathtaking medieval city. Make sure to see its **St. Bavo's Cathedral**, the **Belfry**

and the grim **Castle of the Counts**, and then stroll along Graslei. Return to Bruges before dinner and spend the rest of the evening soaking up the city's medieval atmosphere. For more on Ghent, see "An Excursion to Ghent" in chapter 4.

Day 8

Bruges is close to several international airports: Brussels is about 1½ hours away, Amsterdam Schiphol is a little over 3 hours, and Charles de Gaulle in Paris is about 2¾ hours. Fly home from whichever airport works best for you.

ITINERARY 3 RIDING THE SCENIC ROUTE

Duration:	8 days, 7 nights
Best time of year:	Spring
Ideal passes:	Second-class point-to-point tickets (cheapest) <i>or</i> first-class 5-day, three-country Eurail Selectpass (most comfortable and flexible, and only a little more expensive)
Arrive in:	Milan
Depart from:	Vienna

There's some intense rail riding on this weeklong trip, but you'll be rewarded with a number of the world's most thrilling and dramatic rail journeys as you travel across the Alps. Two noteworthy trains you'll be riding are the magnificent Centovalli Railway traversing Italy and Switzerland, and the only railway deemed worthy of UNESCO's World Heritage Site designation, the Semmering Pass Railway in Austria.

Before leaving home: Call to make reservations to see Leonardo's *Last Supper* in Milan.

Day 1

Arrive in Milan in the morning. After checking into your hotel, see the **Duomo**, and then head for the *Last Supper* if you nabbed a reservation. Spend the afternoon in the **Brera Picture Gallery** and checking out the shops and antiques stores on the side streets off of **Via Brera**, which are open until 7:30pm on most evenings. See "Milan" in chapter 13 for more information on the city.

Day 2

Today you head off on of the best railroad journeys in Europe: a ride on the **Centovalli Railway**. Grab the 9:25am Inter-City train to Bellinzona, arriving at 11:21am. Connect there to a noon train to Locarno, arriving at 12:19pm, and then get on the Centovalli Railway to Domodossola, one of the lesser-known scenic treasures of the Alps. The hourly frequency of the Centovalli line means you can get off at any of the charming villages it serves (we recommend Verdasio or Intragna for their cable cars) and get back on again. There are local and express Centovalli trains, so take a local (leaving at 2:12pm) if you want to stop and an express (leaving at 12:55pm) if you want to shoot straight through. If you take the

local, make sure to get back on the train to arrive in Domodossola no later than 7pm, so you can catch the 7:42pm Cisalpino (reservations required) to Brig, and from there, connect to **Bern**. If you take the express train straight through, you'll arrive in Domodossola at 2:40pm; from there, hop the 4:10pm train to Bern, where you'll arrive around 6:30pm and can check into your hotel for a well-earned rest.

This all sounds very complicated, but the views offered by the Centovalli trains are exceptional, and these are common and frequent connections. The conductors on any of the trains we mention above will tell you where to go if you ask. And if you miss a train, there will usually be another one along in an hour or so.

Day 3

Bern is lovely, but the best railway scenery is in nearby Interlaken. In the morning, make the 1-hour journey to the Interlaken Ost train station and you'll get a view of the mountains in the distance, the 13,000-foot (3,900m) peaks of the **Jungfrau** (p. 838). An intricate network of railways climbs these mountains, and you can ride one or two of them today out of the Interlaken station; a Eurailpass doesn't cover these trains, but passholders

Itinerary 3: Riding the Scenic Route



do get a 25% discount. Rail Europe also sells Jungfrau tickets. Once you've had your fill of the magnificent scenery, head back to Bern and have dinner in one of the city's wine taverns. See "Bern" in chapter 19 for more nightlife options.

Day 4

Say goodbye to Bern, grab your luggage and head back to Interlaken Ost. The famous **Golden Pass Line** (p. 837) heads through the mountains outside of Interlaken along an incredibly scenic route to Luzern (Lucerne). Take the 11:08am **Golden Pass Panoramic** train (reservations needed) from Interlaken Ost to Luzern (you'll arrive at 1:04pm), connecting there to Zurich.

From Zurich, make the 3¼-hour trip to Innsbruck, Austria (you will probably end up on the 5:40pm out of Zurich and won't arrive in Austria until after 9pm, so consider eating on the train, or wait to eat a late dinner after you check into your hotel). If you have some energy left (or you managed to snag an earlier train out of Zurich), take a tram to the **Hungerburg cable railway** (p. 117), which takes you up a mountain overlooking the city and offers especially beautiful nighttime views of Innsbruck.

Day 5

Spend the morning strolling the beautifully preserved **Altstadt** (Old Town) in **Innsbruck**. After an early lunch, catch

the 1:30pm train to **Salzburg**, a 2-hour ride through spectacular Alpine scenery. Take some time to stroll through this picturesque city and check out the **Residenz State Rooms**, where Mozart once played for royal guests. See “Innsbruck” and “Salzburg” in chapter 3 for more on these Austrian cities.

Day 6

Take the 11:18am train from Salzburg to Leoben. Arriving at 2:39pm, you’ll want to make a quick connection to the 2:48pm train to Vienna aboard the 150-year-old **Semmering Pass Railway**—the only rail line on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage sites. Arrive in Vienna at 5:02pm, check into your hotel, and have dinner. Have a piece of the city’s famous dessert, the *Sacher torte*—you’ve earned it.

Day 7

Start your day off at **St. Stephen’s Cathedral** in the heart of Vienna. Climb its south tower for a panoramic view of the city, and then stroll down *Kärntnerstrasse*, the main shopping street. Stop off at one of the city’s grand cafes at 11am for coffee. In the afternoon, visit the **Schönbrunn palace**, summer seat of the Hapsburg dynasty. Have dinner in a Viennese wine tavern and, if you can, attend a concert or theater performance. If you’re an opera fan, the **Staatsoper (Vienna State Opera)** is one of the best in the world.

Day 8

If there’s time in the morning, try and cram in a visit to the city’s **Kaiserliche Hofburg (Imperial Court Palace)** before flying home out of Vienna.

ITINERARY 4 EASTERN EUROPE

Duration:	8 days, 7 nights
Best time of year:	Summer
Ideal passes:	Point-to-point tickets
Arrive in:	Prague
Depart from:	Budapest

Liberated and bustling, but also ancient, eastern Europe is blooming as a rail destination. And, compared to western Europe, it’s cheap, too. This weeklong jaunt takes you to three very different capitals on both sides of the former Iron Curtain: hip Prague, historic Budapest, and cultured Vienna.

Day 1

Arrive in **Prague** in the morning. After checking into your hotel, walk the city’s famous Royal Route, touring **Prague Castle** before walking across the Charles Bridge into **Old Town**. From there, head for **Wenceslas Square**, site of the demonstrations that led to the Velvet Revolution in 1989. See “Prague” in chapter 5 for more on the city.

Day 2

Prague’s greatest strengths are its architecture and atmosphere; both are best experienced by strolling and wandering

the city’s streets. So spend your day exploring Prague’s **Old Town** and **Jewish Quarter** in more depth. In the **Jewish Quarter (Josefov)**, be sure to visit the **Old Jewish Cemetery**.

Day 3

Take a morning train to beautiful, medieval **Český Krumlov**, changing trains in *České Budějovice*. If you can stomach it, there’s a 7:23am from Prague, which will get you into Krumlov around 11:28am; otherwise, take the 9:23am and get in around 1:16pm. Spend the day exploring this World Heritage Site (be

Itinerary 4: Eastern Europe



sure to see the city's famous castle) and stay overnight. For more information, see "Český Krumlov" in chapter 5.

Day 4

Get up early this morning because you'll need to hop an 8:23am train from Krumlov back to **České Budějovice**. You'll have about 2½ hours to explore this former fortress town and original home of Budweiser beer. See "České Budějovice," in chapter 5 for sightseeing options in the town. Make sure you're back in the station in time to catch the 12:04pm train to Linz. You'll connect there to a train to Vienna and should arrive in the Austrian capital around 4:30pm. Check into your

hotel, have dinner (don't skip dessert in this city renowned for its pastries!), and perhaps take in a concert. For more on Vienna, check out "Vienna" in chapter 3.

Day 5

See Day 7 of the "Riding the Scenic Route" itinerary on p. 8.

Day 6

Take the 8:48am train out of Vienna to Budapest. After arriving at 11:28am, check into your hotel and eat lunch. Spend your afternoon exploring the **Inner City** and **Central Pest**. Walk down **Váci útca**, the city's trendiest shopping street. Then stroll along the Danube to the neo-Gothic **Parliament** building.

Have a hearty Hungarian dinner and, if you're an opera fan, join the rest of Budapest at the **Hungarian State Opera**. See "Budapest" in chapter 12 for more information on the city.

Day 7

Today, focus on Budapest's Castle District. Be sure to see the 13th-century **Matthias Church** and the **Budapest History Museum**. On your way back into Pest, stop for coffee and a slice of

dobos torta (layer cake) at **Auguszt**, one of the city's classic coffeehouses. Then drop in at **St. Stephen's Church**, the country's largest, before heading over to the striking Moorish and Byzantine **Dohány Synagogue**, the largest in Europe. After dinner, take in one of the city's many musical concerts.

Day 8

Fly home from Budapest.

ITINERARY 5 EXPLORING THE SCANDINAVIAN TRIANGLE

Duration:	8 days, 7 nights
Best time of year:	Summer
Ideal passes:	Point-to-point tickets or 5-day Scanrail Pass
Arrive in:	Copenhagen
Depart from:	Stockholm

Summer in Scandinavia brings days that stretch forever. Take advantage of all those sunny hours to explore three of the region's key cities: Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Oslo.

Day 1

Arrive in Copenhagen in the morning and check into your hotel. Take a couple of hours to stroll the old city's cobblestone streets and its many canals. Spend the late afternoon at **Christiansborg Palace**. Early in the evening, sample the rides and entertainment at the city's famous **Tivoli**. See "Copenhagen" in chapter 6 for more sightseeing options.

Day 2

In the morning, visit **Amalienborg Palace**, see the changing of the guard there, and then walk to the statue of the **Little Mermaid**. In the afternoon, see the treasures of the **National Museum**, and in the evening, drop in on one of the city's many jazz clubs.

Day 3

Spend your morning perusing works by the old masters at the **Statens Museum for Kunst** (Royal Museum of Fine Arts),

then have an early lunch and leave Copenhagen on the 1:23pm X2000 express train (reservations required) to Gothenburg, and switch there to the 5:50pm train to Oslo. Eat dinner on the train because you won't arrive in Oslo before 9:45pm. Check into your hotel and get some rest.

Day 4

After breakfast, stroll past the **Akershus Castle and Fortress** before catching the bus to the Bygdøy peninsula for the city's renowned ship museums. In the afternoon, if you have time, take in the **Edvard Munch Museum** or head to the **Tryvannstårnet** tower for a panoramic view of Oslo. See "Oslo" in chapter 15 for more information.

Day 5

Get up early and spend your morning viewing the masterpieces hanging in the **Nasjonalgalleriet** (alas, the world-famous *The Scream* was stolen in 2004 and has

Itinerary 5: Exploring the Scandinavian Triangle



yet to be recovered). Then hop the 1pm X2000 train (reservations required) to Stockholm, which will put you in the Swedish capital at 8:50pm. After checking into your hotel, head to Stockholm's **Gamla Stan (Old Town)** and have a late dinner at one of its restaurants. See "Stockholm" in chapter 18 for information on the city.

Day 6

Get an early start and take a ferry to Djurgården to visit the **Royal Warship Vasa** and the **Skansen** folk museum. In the afternoon, head to the **Royal Palace & Museums** and check out the Swedish crown jewels, among other royal treasures.

Have dinner in Old Town and, if you can, take in a performance in the exceptional **Drottningholm Court Theater**.

Day 7

Take a morning train to **Uppsala**—trains leave every half-hour and take 45 minutes—and spend some of the morning walking around the university and visiting its famous Gothic cathedral. After lunch, take the local bus to historic **Gamla Uppsala** and explore the archaeological remains there. For more sightseeing options, see "Uppsala" in chapter 18. Return to Stockholm by train before dinnertime. For dinner, try the smorgasbord-style buffet at the **Grand Veranda**.

Day 8

If your flight doesn't leave until the afternoon, spend the morning in the

National Museum of Art. Catch the 20-minute Arlanda Express train to the airport and fly home.

2 2-Week Itineraries

Though you can do a 1-week rail vacation in Europe if you limit your travels to a small region, if you want to cut a wider swath, you'll need at least 2 weeks to see things without feeling rushed. In this section we offer a couple of specialized itineraries for architecture buffs and food-lovers, as well as a few "grand tour" suggestions for travelers who want to sample Europe's various regions and cities at a reasonable pace.

ITINERARY 6 EUROPE'S BEST ART & ARCHITECTURE

Duration:	15 days, 14 nights
Best time of year:	Spring
Ideal passes:	First-class 6-day, four-country Eurail Selectpass (most comfortable; and only a little more expensive than second-class)
Arrive in:	Brussels
Depart from:	Venice

This trip lets you bury yourself among the masterpieces of European art—it's a museum buff's dream. You'll hit four of the world's greatest museums—the Louvre, the Prado, the Vatican, and the Uffizi—as well as three open-air museums filled with great architecture in Bruges, Barcelona, and Venice.

Day 1

Arrive at Brussels National Airport, then take the train into Brussels Midi station and immediately connect to a train to **Bruges**; the entire train trip should take about 1½ hours. In Bruges, tour the medieval streets and enjoy the city's unique architecture. See "Bruges" in chapter 4 for more on the city.

Day 2

Take one of the hourly trains that leave Bruges for Brussels, and then catch a Thalys train to Paris. If you time it right, the entire trip should take about 2½ hours. Once you're settled in **Paris**, start off at the **Arc de Triomphe**, then stroll down the Champs-Élysées to the **Egyptian obelisk** at the Place de la Concorde. Next up is the **Eiffel Tower**. Around sunset, head for **Notre Dame Cathedral** to top off your Paris monuments tour. See

"Paris" in chapter 8 for more on the City of Light.

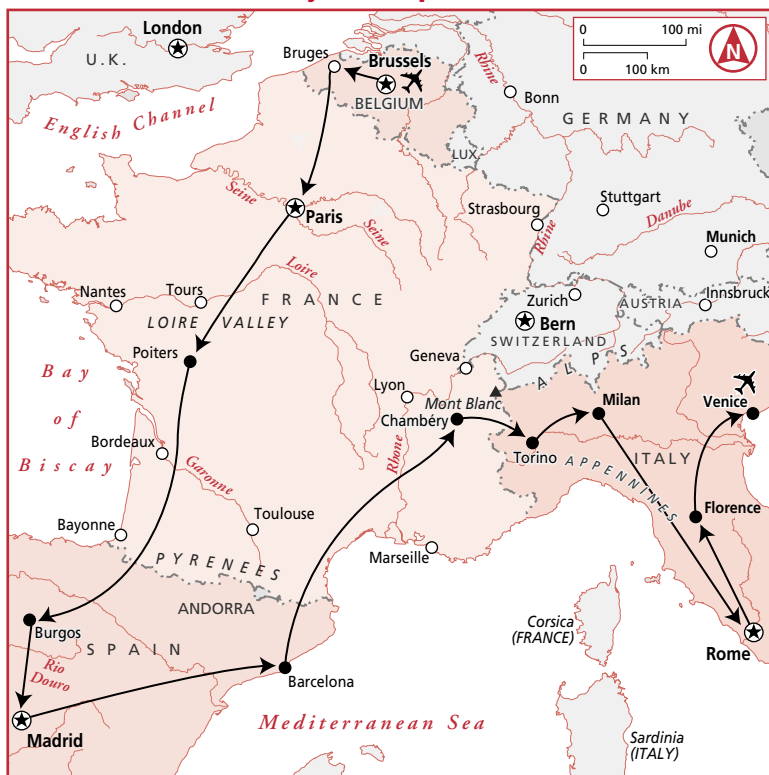
Day 3

If you're a fan of great art, then we don't have to tell you that the **Louvre** warrants an entire day. But if you need a change of pace in the afternoon, the **Centre Pompidou** will yank you into the 20th century.

Day 4

So many riches: The **Musée National Auguste Rodin**? The **Musée Picasso**? How about the **Musée d'Orsay**? Choose two, and enjoy one in the morning and one in the afternoon. After an early dinner, head to Paris's Austerlitz station for the 7:43pm overnight train to Madrid's Charmartin station, arriving at 9:13am. This train, the *Francisco de Goya*, is one of Spain's Train Hotel Elipsos and one of Europe's most luxurious rides (p. 255).

Itinerary 6: Europe's Best Art & Architecture



Day 5

Check into your hotel, then start your day in Madrid at the **Royal Palace** and work your way east to the **Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales**. Spend the night as locals do by Tasca hopping. See “Madrid” in chapter 17 for more on information.

Day 6

How does the **Museo del Prado** compare to the Louvre? Today’s your day to find out. If there’s time, head over to the **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía**, home of Picasso’s famous *Guernica*. If you aren’t too exhausted, take in a flamenco show after dinner.

Day 7

Take the 9am Talgo high-speed train from Charmartin station to **Barcelona**, arriving at 2:33pm. Spend the afternoon and evening strolling the **Barri Gòtic**, the city’s Gothic quarter, or the famous promenade of **La Rambla**. For more sightseeing options, see “Barcelona” in chapter 17.

Day 8

Start your morning with a tour of **La Sagrada Família**; then head either to **Parc Güell** for more Modernist masterpieces, or take in the **Fundació Joan Miró** or **Museu Picasso** museums. (This is a good time to take a break from museums, and lounge on a bench in Parc Güell staring at the sky.)

Take the 7:55pm Talgo night train to Milan, where you'll transfer to the 10am Eurostar Italia train bound for Rome, arriving at 2:30pm on Day 9.

Day 9

Check into your hotel in **Rome** and spend the afternoon and evening touring the ruins of Ancient Rome, starting at the **Capitoline Hill** and walking along the **Via dei Fori Imperiali** to the ruins of the **Colosseum**. See "Rome" in chapter 13 for more sightseeing options in the city.

Day 10

Spend the entire day perusing the contents of the **Vatican Museums**. Seeing the **Sistine Chapel** is a given, but don't miss the **Pinacoteca** (picture gallery), which is loaded with masterpieces.

Day 11

Say goodbye to Rome and take a morning train—trains run twice an hour and reservations are necessary—for the 95-minute journey to **Florence**. Florence is fortunately compact, so once you've checked into your hotel, you can spend your day strolling the axis from the **Basilica di Santa Maria Novella** to **Il Duomo**, the **Palazzo Vecchio**, and **Giotto's Bell Tower**. See "Florence" in chapter 13 for further details on the city.

Day 12

Check out of your hotel early, stash your bags at the train station, and spend your entire day, if possible, submerged in the art of the **Galleria degli Uffizi**. Tear yourself away from the museum's masterpieces in order to grab your bags and board the 6:39pm train to Venice, arriving at 9:28pm. (Have dinner in the Eurostar Italia train's dining car.) See "Venice" in chapter 13 for more details.

Day 13

Venice *is* art. Explore the **Piazza San Marco** in the morning—be sure to stop in at the **Ducale Palace & Bridge of Sighs** and **St. Mark's Basilica**—and then wander the city's many canals and bridges in the afternoon.

Day 14

Museum buffs should hit the **Galleria dell'Accademia** for older art, the **Collezione Peggy Guggenheim** for newer works, and **Ca' d'Oro**, where a multitude of masterpieces are hung in a grand setting in a former palace. If you prefer architecture to museums, take a *vaporetto* ride along the Grand Canal and visit several of Venice's beautiful churches and guild houses.

Day 15

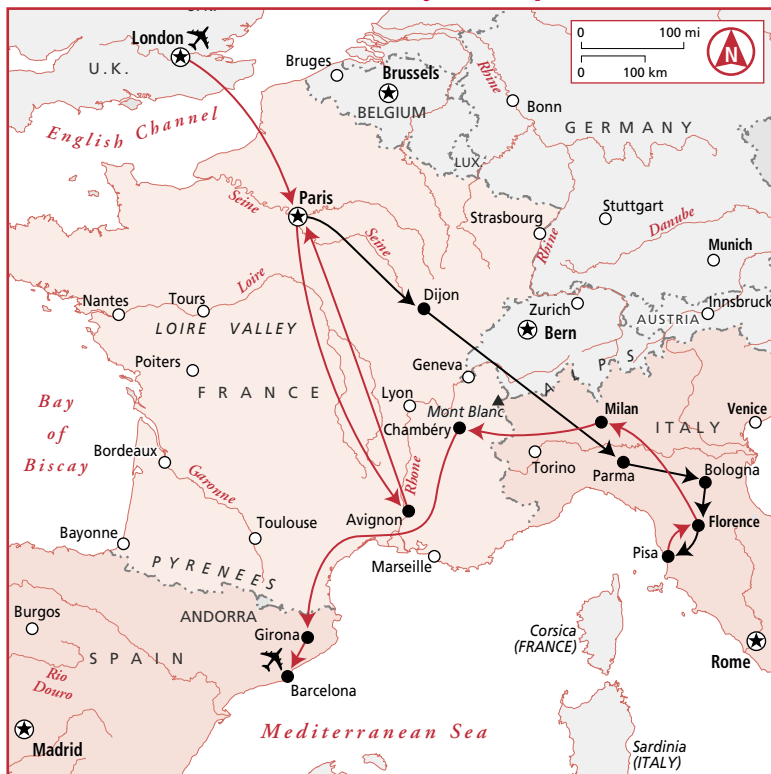
Bid farewell to Europe and fly home out of Venice.

ITINERARY 7 EUROPE FOR FOOD LOVERS

Duration:	15 days, 14 nights
Best time of year:	Spring or fall
Ideal passes:	First-class three-country Eurail Selectpass (6 or 8 days depending on the side trips you take), plus Eurostar ticket
Arrive in:	London
Depart from:	Barcelona

This 2-week trip features a walk through some of the best and most recognized regional cuisine and dining experiences in Europe. We start you off in London, where you can take afternoon tea or dine on classic pub grub, then head off to indulge in the renowned food mecca of Paris plus the celebrated cuisines of Tuscany and Spain with a side trip to Provence as a bonus. Loosen your belt as you eat your way through Europe.

Itinerary 7: Europe for Food Lovers



Before you leave: If you don't want to be left out in the cold, it is crucial to make dinner reservations by phone in advance before you leave home.

Day 1

Arrive in the morning in **London**. The city is actually a center of global cuisine where you can eat a different country's food every day for weeks—it's an often-underrated foodie capital that's about a lot more than fish and chips (though you should have those too!). Spend the day visiting the sites of Westminster: **Westminster Abbey**, **10 Downing Street**, **Big Ben**, and the **Houses of Parliament**. For dinner, sample the cuisine of one of Britain's best chefs, Marco Pierre White, at **Criterion Brasserie**. Top off the

evening with a pint at a pub near your hotel. See "London" in chapter 10 for more on dining and sightseeing in the city.

Day 2

Today's a royal day in London. Spend a long morning at the **Tower of London**, have lunch, and then head off to **Kensington Palace**. Grab a pretheater dinner at Michelin-starred chef Nico Ladenis's **Incognico**, then head off to the West End and see a show.

Day 3

In the morning, visit the **British Museum**. Shop a bit in Covent Garden and stop in at one of Soho's many patisseries (**Maison Bertaux's** our favorite) for

a traditional afternoon tea. Then, head off to South Kensington and pop in at the **Victoria & Albert Museum**. For your final night in London, dine at the ultra-British but thoroughly modern cuisine at **Rules Restaurant**.

Day 4

After a good English breakfast, take a morning Eurostar train for the 3-hour ride to Paris. Your Eurail Selectpass gives you a discount on this speedy, expensive train. (See p. 388 for more on Eurostar.) Spend the afternoon at the **Louvre** and have dinner in a traditional French brasserie. See “Paris” in chapter 8 for dining options in the city.

Day 5

Get acquainted with monumental Paris. Begin at the **Arc de Triomphe** and stroll down the Champs-Élysées to the **Egyptian obelisk**; then either stand in line for the Eiffel Tower or explore the **Ile St-Louis** and the **Quartier Latin**. Take a break at a Left Bank cafe for coffee and pastries, and around sunset, head for **Notre-Dame Cathedral** to top off your Paris monuments tour. Have dinner in a Left Bank bistro.

Day 6

Explore a Parisian food market this morning to see where chefs get their inspiration. Then visit **Fauchon**, the ultimate gourmet food store, for the ingredients of a picnic lunch. Spend the rest of the day exploring the sights of the **Ile de la Cité** and **Le Marais** before seeing what all that three-star Michelin stuff is about at **L'Ambroisie** (just be prepared to empty your wallet). Get some rest—you'll have an early start and a very long day tomorrow.

Day 7

Depart Paris on the 9:34am TGV train to **Avignon**, in Provence (arriving at 12:15pm). This former capital of Christendom offers excellent dining and the

magnificent **Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes)** for touring. Have an early dinner because you'll need to hop the TGV back to Paris at 9pm to arrive at 11:43pm. Fall into bed and get a well-deserved night's sleep. See “Avignon” in chapter 8 for dining options in the city.

Day 8

Sleep in a little, have a leisurely breakfast, and then spend the day at the **Musée d'Orsay** and **Centre Pompidou**. Have lunch in one of the city's celebrated cafes (the avant-garde **Café Beaubourg** is just across from the Pompidou). You can bring along Parisian takeout or have dinner on the 7:09pm overnight train to Florence, your base for Tuscany. You'll arrive at 7:29am on Day 9.

Day 9

Work up your appetite today by strolling **Florence** from the **Basilica di Santa Maria Novella** to the **Duomo**, the **Palazzo Vecchio** and finally Santa Croce. Have lunch at a simple Italian restaurant such as **Buca dell'Orafo** or **Da Ganino**. For dinner, eat at the legendary Tuscan restaurant **Paoli**. See “Florence” in chapter 13 for more on dining in the city.

Day 10

It's excursion time: Catch the 9:25am train to the Tuscan city of Pisa. You'll arrive at 10:27am and should immediately set out for the famous **Leaning Tower**. For lunch, sample excellent Pisan cuisine at **Antica Trattoria Da Bruno**, near the tower. Then tour the **Duomo** and the **Baptistery** before returning to Florence on the 5:17pm train (arriving 6:20pm). Sample some more delectable Tuscan cuisine at dinner, then have dessert and coffee at one of the city's many sidewalk cafes and people-watch.

Day 11

Spend the morning at the **Boboli Gardens** and the **Palazzo Pitti**. Take a long lunch at **Cantinetta Antinori**, sampling

the wines. After a siesta, do some shopping and have a final Tuscan dinner at **Trattoria Garga**.

Day 12

Get up early and spend the day in the **Galleria degli Uffizi**, one of the world's greatest art museums. Take the 4:14pm express train from Florence to Milan, where you'll have a 50-minute layover before connecting to the 7:50pm overnight train to Barcelona. Have dinner on the train or grab something in Milan's station before you depart. You'll arrive in Barcelona at 9:46am.

Day 13

Barcelona has an embarrassment of riches, both culinary and architectural. Check into your hotel and then start your day off at **La Sagrada Família** cathedral, the city's famous cathedral, and wander

the city's Gothic Quarter. Take lunch at **Garduña**, located in the back of Catalonia's best food market, before visiting the **Museu Picasso**. Retire to your hotel room for a siesta, then eat a late dinner and spend the night downing bubbly at Barcelona's numerous *cava* (champagne) bars. See "Barcelona" in chapter 17 for more on dining in the city.

Day 14

Start your day off by visiting the **Parc Güell**, and the **Fundació Joan Miró**. Spend a relaxing afternoon sipping cava and munching tapas at **El Xampanyet**, and eat a late dinner at one of Barcelona's excellent Catalan restaurants—**Jean Luc Figueras** is a good choice.

Day 15

Say *adios* to Europe and fly home from Barcelona.

ITINERARY 8 WARM-WEATHER EUROPE

Duration:	15 days, 14 nights
Best time of year:	Summer
Ideal passes:	First-class 8-day, four-country Eurail Selectpass
Arrive in:	Athens
Depart from:	Barcelona

There's a mellow Europe, where 3-hour lunches and lounging on the beach is the norm. It's also an ancient and beautiful place, settled thousands of years ago by Greece and Rome. This 2-week trip brings you along that ancient coastline and lets you sun yourself on the beaches of four countries. Bring your bathing suit and plenty of sunblock!

Day 1

Arrive in Athens. After checking into your hotel, start at the **Acropolis**, strolling downhill to the ancient Agora. Have lunch in the nearby Monastiraki or Plaka districts, then take a taxi to the recently renovated **National Archaeological Museum** to see the Mycenaean gold, Cycladic idols, and classical bronze statues. Head back to your hotel for a siesta, before returning to the Plaka for dinner. If you're in town during the city's famous Athens Festival, try to see a play at the

Acropolis's **Herodion Atticus Theater**. For more on Athens, see "Athens" in chapter 11.

Day 2

Rise with the sun this morning (it'll be worth it) and catch the 8:47am train to the seaside village of **Diakofto**. After arriving at 11:36am, hurry and make the 11:48am connection to the **rack-and-pinion railroad** (p. 479) that runs the 1-hour mountain route between Diakofto and Kalavryta. This hidden gem is one of

the most scenic in all of Europe. Eat lunch and spend some time exploring the charming town of **Kalavryta**, but be sure to get back to the train station in time to catch the 3:51pm train back to Diakofto, where you'll need to grab the 6:30pm InterCity train back to Athens. Have a late dinner and get some well-earned sleep.

Day 3

Start your morning off in Athens at the **Benaki Museum**, where all of Greek history is housed under one roof. Afterward, get some lunch and do a little shopping in the Plaka. Be sure to get to the train station in time to catch the 4:06pm train to Nafplion. You'll arrive in the scenic town at 7:04pm. Take a taxi to your hotel, then grab dinner at a local taverna and call it a day.

Day 4

Spend your day in **Nafplion**, wandering the beautiful town's streets and enjoying the scenery and the beach. Walk up to the **Acronafplia**, and take a taxi to the top of the **Palamidi** before walking down. Cap your day by having coffee at one of the city's many waterfront cafes while watching the sunset.

Day 5

It's time to cross the Adriatic. Take the 11:23am train from Nafplion to Corinth, and switch to the 1:25pm train to Patras, arriving at 3:29pm. At 6pm, get on the overnight ferry to Bari, Italy, arriving at 8:30am. (For more on this ferry, see p. 553.)

Day 6

Spend the morning in Bari, then board a 1:43pm express train for the 4½-hour journey to Rome. Check into your hotel, and then have dinner near the **Pantheon** and visit the **Trevi Fountain**. See "Rome" in chapter 13 for more sightseeing options in the city.

Day 7

Explore ancient Rome today starting at the **Capitoline Hill** and walking along the Via dei Fori Imperiali to the ruins of the **Colosseum**. Nearby you'll find the ruins of the **Roman Forum** and the **Palatine Hill**. Have dinner near the **Piazza Navona**, then explore that famous square and see **Bernini's Fountain**. For more information, see "Rome" in chapter 13.

Day 8

Spend today exploring the treasures of the Vatican. Take in **St. Peter's Basilica** in the morning and the **Vatican Museums** in the afternoon. Have dinner in Trastevere.

Day 9

Take a day trip to the ancient city of **Pompeii**, just 2½ hours from Rome by train. Trains run via Naples and if you leave Rome at 8:45am and return from Pompeii at 4:40pm, you'll have time for dinner in Naples before returning to Rome.

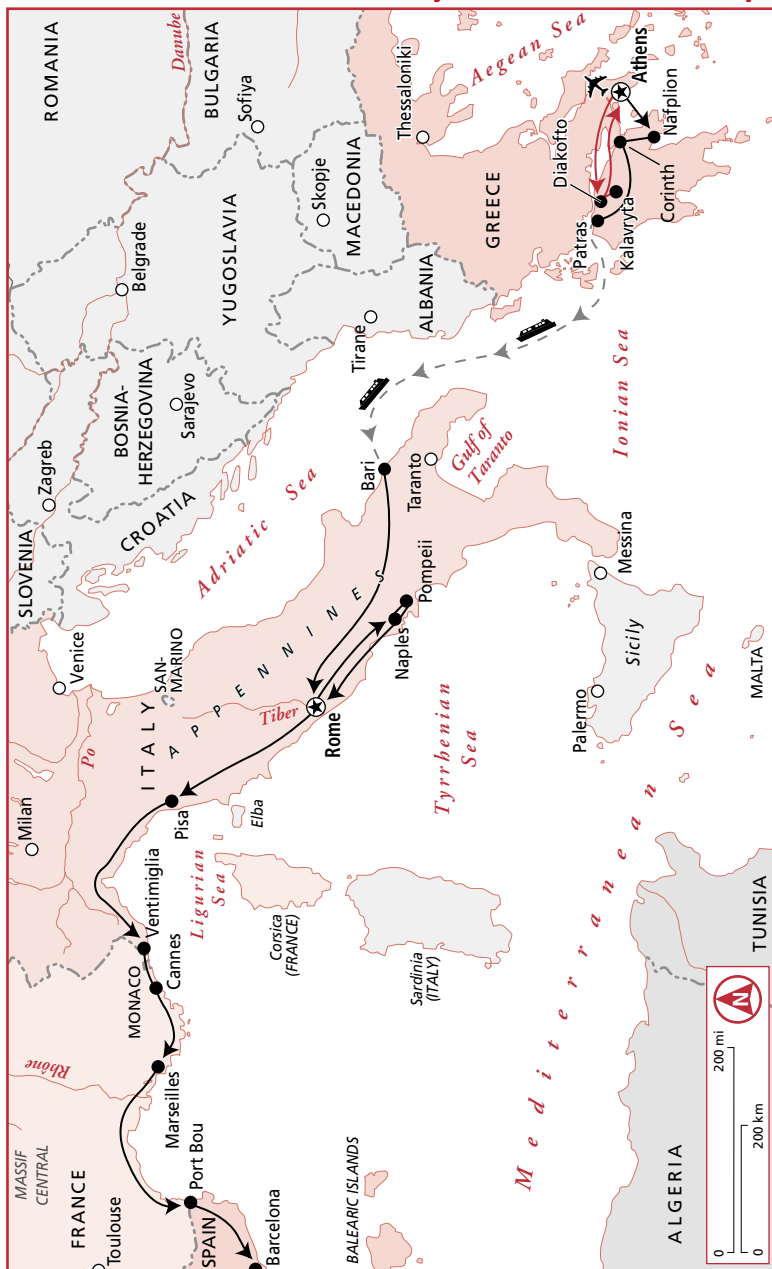
Day 10

During the morning, shop and stroll around the **Spanish Steps**. In the afternoon, take in another museum, such as the **Galleria Borghese**, or enjoy people-watching on the Piazza della Rotonda near the Pantheon. Take the 10:40pm overnight train to Nice, where you can catch a high-speed train to Cannes, arriving at 10:33am.

Day 11

You're only on the **Riviera** for the day. Stash your luggage in lockers at the station and spend the day ogling beachgoers (as Cannes's rocky beach isn't very comfortable), window-shopping on **La Croisette**, and pretending to be rich and famous. (See chapter 8 for more on the Riviera.) Then get on the 11:03pm overnight train to Portbou, a border town in Spain where you'll arrive at 6:14am; wait a bit, then hop the 7:35am train to Barcelona.

Itinerary 8: Warm-Weather Europe



Day 12

You'll arrive in **Barcelona** at 9:42am. After checking into your hotel, visit Gaudi's **La Sagrada Familia** cathedral. In the evening, stroll the **Barri Gòtic**, the city's Gothic quarter, or the famous **La Rambla** promenade. For more sightseeing options, see "Barcelona" in chapter 17.

Day 13

Start your morning off with a tour of the **Museu Picasso**, and then spend the afternoon among the surreal architecture of beautiful **Parc Güell**.

Day 14

Head to the **Fundació Joan Miró** museum in the morning, and then ride the funicular up Tibidabo Mountain to the **Mirador Torre de Collserola**; the tower offers spectacular vistas of the coast and city. In the afternoon, stroll the city's Gothic quarter and check out **Catedral de Barcelona**. Spend a fun evening sampling the bubbly at Barcelona's many *cava* (champagne) bars.

Day 15

Fly home from Barcelona.

ITINERARY 9 GREAT CITIES OF EUROPE

Duration:	15 days, 14 nights
Best time of year:	Spring or fall
Ideal passes:	First-class 5-day, four-country Eurail Selectpass, plus Eurostar tickets
Arrive in:	Rome
Depart from:	Berlin

Europe has been the center of many a globe-girdling empire. This 2-week trip gets you to the heart of the Continent's great cities—and gives you as much time as possible to explore their sights and sounds—and to meet their people.

Day 1

Land at Rome's Fiumicino airport, starting your European rail journey with the train shuttle to the Roma Termini Station (don't waste a day on your railpass for this ride, though—the ticket is very cheap). Check into your hotel before starting your exploration of ancient Rome, beginning at the **Capitoline Hill** and walking along the Via dei Fori Imperiali to the ruins of the **Colosseum**. Nearby you'll find the ruins of the **Roman Forum** and the **Palatine Hill**. Have dinner near the **Pantheon** and visit the **Trevi Fountain**. See "Rome" in chapter 13 for more on the city.

Day 2

Spend today exploring the treasures of the Vatican. Take in **St. Peter's Basilica** in the morning and the **Vatican Museums** in the afternoon. Have dinner in Trastevere.

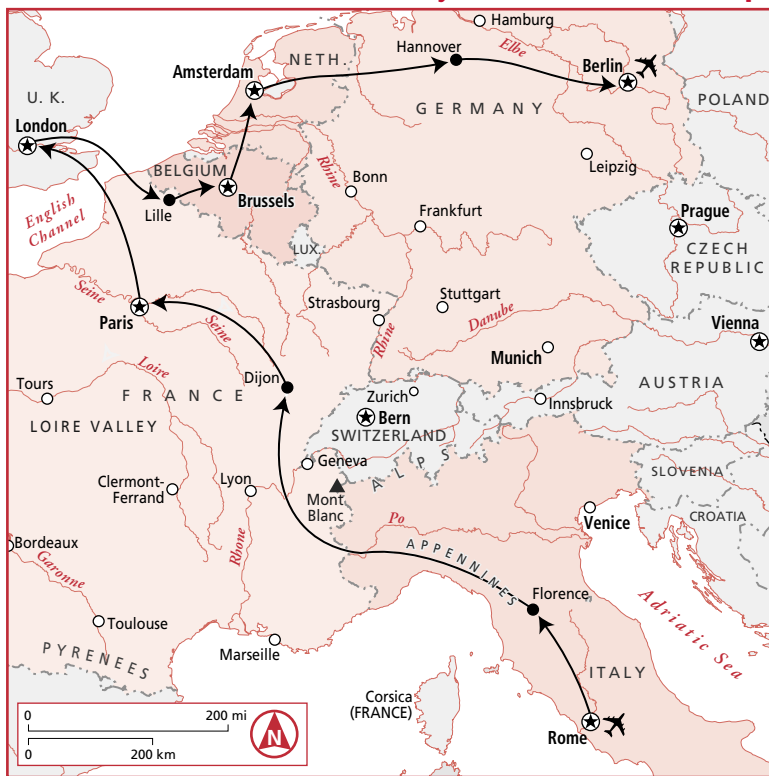
Day 3

During the morning, shop and stroll around the **Spanish Steps**. In the afternoon, take in another museum, such as the **Galleria Borghese**, or enjoy people-watching on the Piazza della Rotonda near the Pantheon. Around 5pm, head to Stazione Termini for your first major rail trip: the **Artesia France-Italy Night train** departing at 6:10pm from Rome, arriving at 9:10am the next morning in Paris.

Day 4

Get acquainted with Paris. Begin at the **Arc de Triomphe** and stroll down the Champs-Élysées to the **Egyptian obelisk**; then either stand on line for the **Eiffel Tower** or explore the **Ile St-Louis** and the **Latin Quarter**. Around sunset, head for **Notre-Dame Cathedral** to top off your day. Eat dinner in a Left Bank

Itinerary 9: Great Cities of Europe



cafe. See “Paris” in chapter 8 for more information.

Day 5

Start your day off exploring the **St-Germain-des-Prés** area. Move on to the Ile de la Cité, before heading to the **Place de la Bastille**. Finish your day off by touring fashionable Le Marais. Then eat dinner at a brasserie and spend the night people-watching at a sidewalk cafe.

Day 6

Spend the day at the **Louvre**; if you want a change of scenery, tack on a visit to the magnificent **Musée d'Orsay**. Be sure to indulge in some Parisian pastries before the day is through.

Day 7

Grab a croissant on the way to the Gare de Nord and take a morning Eurostar train to London. The just-under-3-hour journey rockets across France at up to 180 mph (290kmph). It may appear costly, but the \$120 passholder fare is no more expensive (and far more comfortable) than the combined fare for a high-speed ferry from Calais to Dover and a local train from Dover to London. (See p. 388 for more on Eurostar.)

You'll arrive in **London** around lunchtime. Leave your bags at your hotel and grab lunch at a nearby pub. Spend the afternoon touring the sights of Westminster: **Westminster Abbey**, **10 Downing**

Street, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament. Have dinner in Covent Garden. See “London” in chapter 10 for more on the British capital.

Day 8

If you couldn't get into Westminster Abbey on Day 7, try again. Otherwise, spend the morning at the **British Museum**, and after lunch head over to the **Tower of London**. If you have time, take a ride on the **British Airways London Eye** **London Eye**, just across the river. After a quick dinner, head over to the West End and catch a show.

Day 9

If one of your days in London is a weekend, spend some time at one or two of the major markets, such as Portobello Road. If you're here midweek, wave hello to the lions in **Trafalgar Square** and tour the **National Gallery**, one of Europe's finest art museums (and it's free!). Grab some lunch, shop a bit at Covent Garden, and end your day at the **Victoria & Albert Museum**—home to the world's greatest collection of decorative arts (don't miss the British Galleries).

Day 10

Fortify yourself with a good English breakfast this morning before heading to Waterloo station for the 10:43am Eurostar to **Brussels**, the capital of the European Union. The trip takes under 2½ hours, but you'll arrive after 2pm thanks to a 1-hour time difference. See “Brussels” in chapter 4 for more on the city.

In Brussels, stash your luggage at Gare du Midi, then hop a train to Gare Central and head to the medieval **Grand-Place**, a World Heritage Site, for some of the city's famous seafood and mussels. After dinner, head back to Gare du Midi and get on the 8:46pm InterCity train for the 3-hour trip to Amsterdam. You'll get in late, so take a cab to your hotel. We suggest staying near Centraal Station, at a hotel such as the **Hotel Amsterdam** or the

Amstel Botel. See “Amsterdam” in chapter 14 for more hotel options.

Day 11

You've only got 2 days in Amsterdam, so focus on the city center. Explore the core of the city either by foot or on a canal boat, stopping at the **Dam Square**, the picturesque **Flower Market** at **Muntplein**, the immense market at **Waterlooplein**, and the lively **Leidseplein**. After a late lunch, stop at the renowned **Rijksmuseum** to see its current “greatest hits” exhibition of Dutch art. For dinner, sample one of the city's **Indonesian rijsttafel buffets**. After dinner, if you dare, take an evening walk through the Red Light District on the way back to your hotel—it only gets livelier as it gets later.

Day 12

Check out of your hotel, store your luggage, and head to the western part of the city this morning, past the Dutch Renaissance-style **Westerkerk**, to the haunting **Anne Frank House**. Have lunch at **De Prins**, right across the canal. Unwind with a coffee and “brown-café” style food while people-watching along the canal.

Make sure to be at Centraal Station in time to catch the zippy 3:13pm InterCity train to Berlin (alas, there are no decent overnight trains from Amsterdam to the German capital). Have dinner on the train and arrive in Berlin at 9:15pm. Check into your hotel and get a good night's sleep.

Day 13

In the morning, visit the **Brandenburg Gate**, symbol of Berlin, then walk down Unter den Linden and enjoy breakfast at one of the cafes that line the street. Head to the store-lined **Ku'damm** to witness German capitalism in action. In the afternoon, visit the Greek and Roman antiquities in the **Pergamon Museum**, then head south to explore the charming 16th-century **Nikolai Quarter**. If they are

playing, when you are in town, the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra** is one of the best in the world. For more on the city, see “Berlin” in chapter 9.

Day 14

Visit the masterpieces at the **Gemäldegalerie**, then tour **Charlottenburg Palace** and its museums. Spend any leftover time strolling through Berlin, perhaps stopping

at the Cold War’s **Checkpoint Charlie**. Or take a day trip to beautiful **Potsdam**, just 23 minutes away by train (29 trains depart throughout the day), and explore the **Sans Souci Palace** and its surrounding parkland. After dinner, do as Berliners do and have a drink at a Kneipe, the local version of a British pub.

Day 15

Fly back to your home from Berlin.

ITINERARY 10 THE GRAND TOUR

Duration:	15 days, 14 nights
Best time of year:	Any time
Ideal passes:	First-class 15-day Eurailpass <i>or</i> point-to-point tickets (cheapest)
Arrive in:	Lisbon
Depart from:	Berlin

The European Union may have a single currency (well, minus a few pesky holdouts here and there), but it’s got more than a dozen unique cultures. A dozen in 15 days is a bit too much of a challenge for us, but this long-distance journey lets you experience six distinctly different flavors of Europe without having to change your money once—the most diversity and least hassle you can get in 2 weeks. Note that the five rail legs used in this itinerary are night trains, so you’ll save on hotel rooms, but will have to budget for sleeper supplements.

Day 1

Time your flight to arrive in Lisbon as early as possible. Start your day with a stroll through the **Alfama**, the most atmospheric quarter of Lisbon. Visit the city’s 12th-century cathedral and take in a view of the city and the river Tagus from the **Miradouro de Santa Luzia**. Climb up to the **Castelo de São Jorge** and take in another breathtaking view from the castle’s observation platform. Consider a nap before spending a late night at a **fado club** in the Alfama. See “Lisbon” in chapter 16 for more information on the Portuguese capital.

Day 2

Head to the suburb of Belém to see the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos** (**Jerónimos Monastery**), the **Torre de Belém**, and the

Museu Nacional dos Coches (**National Coach Museum**). After lunch, see the artworks at the **Museu de Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian**, or shop at the open-air **Feira da Ladra**. Take the overnight *Lusitania* hotel train to Madrid (p. 40).

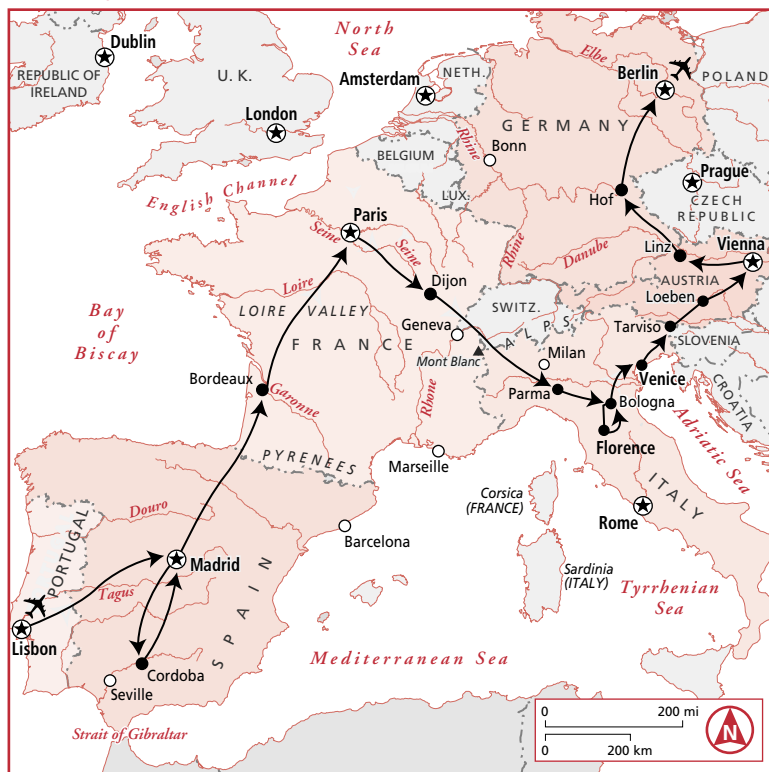
Day 3

Drop your luggage at your hotel, then start your day in Madrid at the **Royal Palace** and work your way east to the **Monasterio las Descalzas Reales**. After checking into your hotel, snack your way around the many tapas bars in the Plaza Mayor area. See “Madrid” in chapter 17 for more on the city.

Day 4

Check out the masterpieces at the **Museo Lázaro Galdiano** in the morning and

Itinerary 10: The Grand Tour



shop the El Rastro flea market in the afternoon. Or take a day trip to explore the Moorish architectural riches of **Córdoba**—hourly AVE express trains leave from Madrid’s Atocha station for the 2-hour journey. See “An Excursion to Córdoba” in chapter 17 for more on this Moorish city.

Day 5

Spend your day at the **Museo del Prado**, and take the overnight *Francisco de Goya* train to Paris. This train, one of the Elip-sos series, is one of Europe’s most luxurious regular trips; even the most basic accommodation is a four-berth sleeper, not a six-berth couchette room like those on many other trains (p. 40).

Day 6

See Day 4 of the “Great Cities of Europe” itinerary (p. 20).

Day 7

See Day 5 of the “Great Cities of Europe” itinerary (p. 21).

Day 8

Spend the day immersed in art at the **Louvre** and the **Musée d’Orsay**. Grab some gourmet French takeout at **Fau-chon** for dinner and take the overnight train to Florence, departing Paris at 7:09pm and arriving at 7:29am.

Day 9

Florence is all about art. Spend your day strolling the city from the **Basilica di**

Santa Maria Novella to the **Duomo**, the **Palazzo Vecchio** and finally **Santa Croce**. Florence is all about food too, so load up on Tuscan cuisine at dinner. See “Florence” in chapter 13 for dining options in the city.

Day 10

Allot the entire day for the **Galleria degli Uffizi**, one of the world’s greatest art museums. If you need a change of scenery, stroll the **Boboli Gardens** and take in the art at the **Palazzo Pitti**. Take the 10:12pm overnight train to Vienna, arriving at 8:43am. If you can, get up around 6:45am to watch the train go over the 150-year-old Semmering Pass Railway, the only rail line on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Sites.

Day 11

See Day 7 of the “Riding the Scenic Route” itinerary (p. 8).

Day 12

Explore other major Vienna attractions, such as the **Kaiserliche Hofburg (Imperial Court Palace)** and the **Kunsthistorisches Museum**. Get to the train

station in time to take the 9:28pm overnight train to Berlin (arriving at 8:18am).

Day 13

You’ll get to **Berlin** by breakfast time, so head for **Unter den Linden** and enjoy breakfast at one of the cafes that line the street. Head to the store-lined **Ku’damm** to shop until you feel like eating lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Greek and Roman antiquities in the **Pergamon Museum**, then head south to explore the charming 16th-century **Nikolai Quarter**. If they are playing, when you are in town, the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra** is one of the best in the world. For more on the city, see “Berlin” in chapter 9.

Day 14

Visit the masterpieces at the **Gemäldegalerie**, then tour **Charlottenburg Palace** and its museums. Spend any leftover time strolling through Berlin, perhaps stopping at the Cold War’s **Checkpoint Charlie**. Top off your trip with a drink at one of Berlin’s vaunted wine cellars.

Day 15

Fly home from Berlin.