

## **Amsterdam, Paris & London**

**Day 1** Amsterdam, Holland. Welkom to the Dutch capital! Your Local Host will help you maximize your time in the city that has almost as many bikes as residents.

**Day 2** Amsterdam. Morning guided sightseeing includes a CRUISE by glass-roofed boat through Amsterdam's canals, where you'll glide past traditional gable-roofed homes, fascinating houseboats, and the Westerkerk (Western Church). Take photos of the Anne Frank House, Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge), and the Blauwbrug (Blue Bridge). Visit a DIAMOND CENTER and learn how these precious stones played such an important part in local history. Admire the splendid works of Rembrandt and other Dutch masters at the world-renowned RIJKSMUSEUM.

**Day 3** Amsterdam. During this day at leisure your Local Host can offer suggestions for things to see and do—like an excursion to The Hague and Madurodam; a unique dinner cruise along the city's fascinating canals; or a visit to the Van Gogh Museum.

**Day 4** Amsterdam–Paris, France. Travel by HIGH-SPEED THALYS TRAIN (First class) to Paris.

**Day 5** Paris. Morning guided sightseeing takes you to NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL, where Napoleon was crowned emperor in 1804, to admire its amazing 13th-century stained-glass Rose Window. Pass the Latin Quarter, Les Invalides, the Opéra, Place de la Concorde, and Arc de Triomphe. Drive by the Seine River with its beautiful bridges, and along the fashionable Champs-Élysées. Stop to take photos of the iconic Eiffel Tower from one of the best panoramic viewing points. Also enter the world's most visited museum, THE LOUVRE with its modern glass pyramid, to see Da Vinci's Mona Lisa and other treasures.

**Day 6** Paris. Your Local Host can help you plan your day in the “City of Light.” You may want to take an excursion to Louis XIV's lavish Versailles, Monet's Giverny, or try a walking route of the Montmartre district, where artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh worked.

**Day 7** Paris–London, England. Travel by HIGH-SPEED EUROSTAR TRAIN (Standard class) to London.

**Day 8** London. Morning guided sightseeing includes all of London's famous landmarks. Drive past the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben; Westminster Abbey, where Prince William and Kate Middleton were married; Whitehall's mounted horseguards; the Prime Minister's Downing Street; and Piccadilly Circus. Take photographs of the London Eye, the giant Ferris wheel situated on the riverbank, and the Shard, the tallest building in Western Europe. Visit ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece with its world-famous dome is an iconic feature of London's skyline, and the awe-inspiring interior holds fascinating stories about its history. The final highlight is the ceremonial pageantry of the Changing of the Guard (if held).

**Day 9** London. Full day at leisure. Ask your Local Hosts for suggestions—on how to get to Madame Tussauds, the celebrity wax figure exhibition; or Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, for a visit of the magnificent State Apartments.

**Day 10** London. Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.