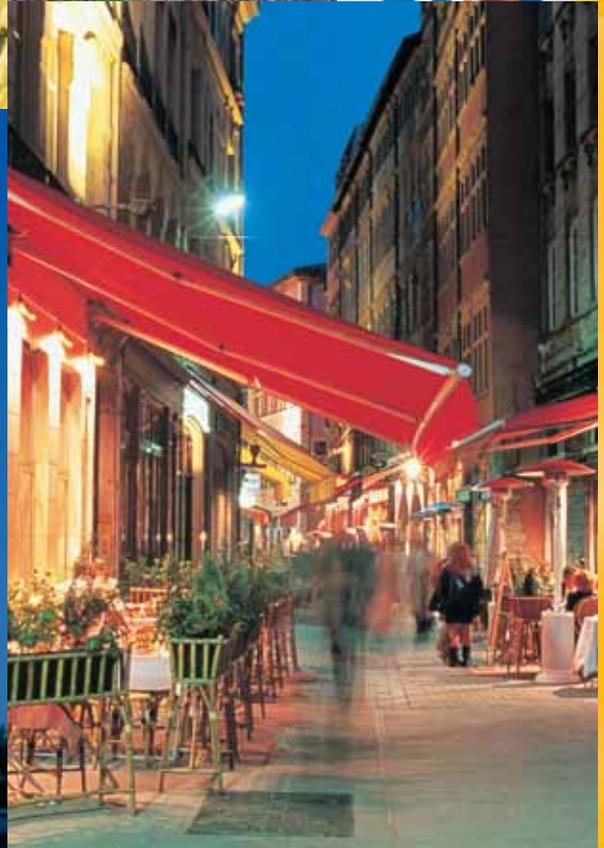




*Educational
Tours*

European Quintet



European Quintet

Germany • The Netherlands
Belgium • France • England

Extension to Scotland



Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays (10 with extension) in hotels with private bathrooms; plus 1 night couchette accommodation with extension
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (3 with extension)
- 7 visits to special attractions (10 with extension)
- 3 EF walking tours (4 with extension) and 2 sightseeing briefings (3 with extension)

Highlights: Cologne Cathedral; Anne Frank's House; Canal cruise; Eiffel Tower; Notre Dame Cathedral; Louvre; Eurostar train; Big Ben; Buckingham Palace; Westminster Abbey; St. Paul's Cathedral

With extension: Edinburgh Castle; Stirling Castle; the Falkirk Wheel Experience

Optional: Volendam and Zaanse Schans; Versailles; Medieval Dinner; Scottish Ceilidh (extension only)



PBS

Learn before you go
www.eftours.com/pbs



Victor Hugo's novel and its sympathetic main character, Quasimodo, are forever linked with the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Germany • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Arrival in Germany

Arrival in Frankfurt • Touch down in Frankfurt. The financial heart of Europe, "Bankfurt" was also the birthplace of Goethe, and the coronation site for Holy Roman Emperors from 1562 to 1806. After clearing customs you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Rhine cruise • Listen for the song of the Lorelei (the German equivalent of a Greek siren) as you cruise down Europe's longest river. Pass age-old castles, narrow church spires, and terraced vineyards as you experience the heart of Romantic Germany. (During the off-season you'll visit Marksburg Castle instead.)

Day 3 Cologne • Amsterdam

Transfer via Cologne • Make a brief stop in the ancient city of Cologne to visit one of Germany's most moving symbols: Cologne's sublime, war-scarred Gothic cathedral (the Kölner Dom), which took more than 600 years to complete.

Arrival in Amsterdam • Travel through irrigated Dutch landscapes as you make your way to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands.

EF walking tour of Amsterdam • Stroll along the canal-lined streets of Amsterdam on our EF walking tour. Cross Dam Square, then pass by the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) and the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), site of Dutch coronations.

Day 4 Amsterdam

Visit to the Anne Frank House • Visit the Anne Frank House, where the young girl tragically hid with her family from 1942 to 1944—and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide.

Canal cruise • Then cruise the city's canals on board a glass-topped boat—ride past moored houseboats, the city's lowest bridge and smallest house and gabled merchant homes. You'll also see a bridge depicted in some of van Gogh's paintings. Note that the narrower the home, the less one had to pay in property taxes! Afterwards, you'll visit a local diamond factory.

Optional excursion to Volendam • Discover the heart of the Dutch countryside in this picturesque fishing village. Walk among the winding, cobblestone streets, past charming shops and crooked houses. Stop in cheese- and clog-making shops before making your way back to Amsterdam.

Day 5 Brussels • Paris

Transfer via tour director-led sightseeing of Brussels • Brussels has come to be known as the unofficial capital of Europe—not only is it the first city of Belgium, but it also serves as the headquarters for NATO and the European Union. Pass the EU buildings as you head into the heart of medieval Brussels. Here you'll see the Guild Houses lining the Grand'Place, "the most beautiful square in the world," according to Victor Hugo (who lived here



Number of overnight stays in parentheses.

after being exiled from France). You'll also stroll past Brussels' oldest citizen, the *Manneken Pis*—ask about the legends surrounding the statue. In addition, you'll view the Atomium; Brussels' lasting exhibit for the 1958 World's Fair represents an iron molecule magnified 200 billion times.

Arrival in Paris • Continue on to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

Day 6 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to Lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as “a vast symphony in stone.” However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to her former glory. Hugo's novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1831), helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire her stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here the Sun King held court in the

most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed every Monday.)

Day 7 Paris

EF walking tour of Paris • Join our walking tour of the chic Opéra district and the haute couture boutiques of Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré. Stroll through Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. The next Louis was not so lucky—he was beheaded here during the Revolution, along with Marie Antoinette. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to Place Vendôme, a vast square wrapped in 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as paintings by European masters, including the *Mona Lisa*.

Day 8 Paris • London

Transfer via the Eurostar from Paris to London •

In Paris, board the high-speed Eurostar, an 18-car train that runs through the tunnel connecting continental Europe with Britain. Completed in May of 1994, the Channel Tunnel provides travelers with easy access to and from the continent. Enjoy state-of-the-art technology as you are whisked under the English Channel to England.

Arrival in London • Arrive in London, Europe's largest city.

Day 9 London

Guided sightseeing of London • Your guided tour takes you past the major landmarks of England's regal capital. Snap a photo of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Pass Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall. You'll also see the Changing of the Guard at the gates of Buckingham Palace (seasonal). If the Royal Standard flag is flown at full mast, the queen is in residence. On your tour through the City of London, the metropolis' one-square-mile core, you'll learn about London's Great Fire of 1666 and visit St. Paul's Cathedral.

EF walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on our EF walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. As you walk along the ancient embankment, note that these shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for “city of the lake.” Walk along the Strand and see the spot from which all distances to London are measured. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, a symbol of Britain's once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where street performers (or “buskers”) and stylish passers-by amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

Optional Medieval Dinner • Tonight King Henry VIII welcomes you to our optional five-course Medieval Dinner, held along the Thames in one of the most picturesque areas of London. A choir of minstrels will herald your arrival inside the banquet hall's historic vaults, located near the medieval Tower of London. Experience British pageantry and Olde English fare as sword-fighting knights, magicians, jesters and balladeers perform throughout this five-course feast. The medieval festivities commence with the presentation of the traditional boar's head! (Please note that this optional dinner is subject to availability, and is not offered on Mondays.)

Day 10 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

The Netherlands is one of the biggest flower-exporting countries in the world.



EXTENSION

Day 10 London • Night Train

Free time in London • Alternatively, your group can plan to extend its stay three days. Today, enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Café or Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, take a cruise down the Thames, or browse through the countless stores along Oxford Street. Attend a Shakespearean drama at a replica of the Globe Theatre, or visit the fascinating, hands-on exhibits of London's Natural History Museum.

Night train to Edinburgh or Glasgow • Tonight, enjoy *courette* accommodations aboard your overnight train bound for Edinburgh or Glasgow (depending on seating availability). Those who travel to Glasgow will transfer to Edinburgh by motorcoach upon arrival.

Day 11 Night Train • Edinburgh Region

Arrival in the Edinburgh region • Arrive in the Edinburgh region and admire the rolling hills and dazzling seascapes that surround the Scottish capital.

Guided sightseeing of Edinburgh • Today, enjoy a sightseeing tour that offers panoramic views of Edinburgh's New Town, constructed in the 18th century during a time of rapid expansion, known as the "Scottish Enlightenment." See Charlotte Square, the center of New Town, then pass by the homes of Alexander Graham Bell and Robert Louis Stevenson, and view a monument to Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. Visit Calton Hill, which offers splendid views of the Firth of Forth to the Lomond Hills of Fife. Pass the Palace of Holyroodhouse, still the Royal Family's official residence in Scotland, and the city's monument to Lord Nelson.

Visit to Edinburgh Castle • Your guided tour of Edinburgh includes a visit to Edinburgh Castle. Situated atop an extinct volcano, the castle is the

enduring symbol of Scotland's capital and home to many of the nation's storied events. Ownership of the fortress changed hands on numerous occasions over the centuries, from Scottish to English and back again. Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth in the castle to James VI of Scotland, who would later rule England as James I. Enter the castle through the Esplanade and see the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone that was returned to Scotland in 1997 after 700 years of English possession. You'll also see tiny St. Margaret's Chapel, the oldest part of the castle, dating back to the 11th century.

EF walking tour of Edinburgh • On your EF walking tour, stroll down the Royal Mile and through the Old Town, a historic and romantic jumble of medieval buildings. As you make your way along the Royal Mile, the narrow alleyways—known as closes—will give you a real sense of what it was like to be a resident of Edinburgh in centuries past. Edinburgh provided the setting for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; a local resident inspired the plot! Stroll down Princes Street, see the city's monuments to Sir Walter Scott (one of Edinburgh's most illustrious sons), pass by the National Gallery of Scotland and the High Kirk of St. Giles, a historic cathedral built in the 12th century.

Optional Ceilidh • Partake in a traditional Scottish *Ceilidh* featuring haggis, neeps and tatties, as well as authentic Scottish sword dancing!

Day 12 Full-day excursion

Visit to Stirling Castle • Recall the long-ago days of Braveheart and Rob Roy on our excursion into the Scottish countryside. Drive up the Firth of Forth to Stirling's crag-top castle. Here King James VI once lived (along with three other royal Jameses).

Photo stop at the William Wallace Visitor Center • Long before he was portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*, William Wallace was a Scottish national hero.

The Falkirk Wheel Experience Boat Trip • Experience this state-of-the-art rotating boat lift, designed to connect the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal, making transport possible between Scotland's largest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh. You'll enjoy informative displays at the visitor's center and a 45-minute boat ride that begins in the Union Canal and runs through Roughcastle tunnel and under the historic Antoine Wall.

The Trossachs and Loch Katrine • Pass through the scenic mountains and lochs of the Trossachs, gateway to the Scottish Highlands. You'll also see the banks of Loch Katrine, setting for Sir Walter Scott's *The Lady of the Lake*.

Day 13 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to Glasgow, where you'll check in at the airport for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Discover the Global Classroom

