

Durgan Travel Service presents...

GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

15-Day/13-Night

Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland



DEPARTURES

March & November \$TBA

April, Early May, October \$TBA

Valid Passport Required!

Passport must be valid
for six months AFTER
return date!

The above rates are for payment by credit card. Please see reservation form for discount cash/check rates. All rates are per person, twin occupancy and INCLUDE \$TBA in air taxes, fees and Fuel Surcharges (*subject to change*).

**Durgan
Travel Service**
*Serving our community
since 1969*
www.durgantravel.com

OUR 15-DAY/13-NIGHT GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR INTINERARY:

DAY 1 – BOSTON~INTERMEDIATE STOP~FRANKFURT: Depart Logan International Airport aboard our transatlantic flight to Frankfurt (*via intermediate stop*) with full meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight.

DAY 2 – FRANKFURT~HEIDELBERG: Arrive at the Frankfurt 'Rhein-Main' Airport. Here, we meet our tour manager, and board the deluxe motor coach for a pleasant drive through the enchanting countryside of Central Germany, enroute to our hotel. This afternoon, the tour manager will invite us on a visit to the renowned university town of Heidelberg, idyllically situated on the Neckar River and dominated by the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. We will check in to *Arcadia Hotel Heidelberg* (or similar). This evening, we will enjoy a 'Welcome Dinner' with our fellow tour members. (D) *Hotel website: www.arcadia-hotel.de/heidelberg/the-hotel.html*

DAY 3 – SCHRIESHEM~ROTHENBURG~ AUGSBURG: Following breakfast and hotel check out, we will travel to the walled town of Rothenburg. Inside the walls is an enchanting, medieval city preserved in its entirety without a single modern building in sight. You will feel like you are walking into a fairy tale when you see the narrow, cobblestone streets, historic inns, and quaint shop fronts. During our free time, we can climb to the top of the 'Rathaus' Bell Tower for a bird's-eye view of the city, or walk atop the old city walls surrounding the town. Check out the Medieval Criminal Museum, which exhibits tools of punishment from more draconian times. Or stroll through the castle gardens overlooking the River Tauber. Delightful shopping opportunities also await us at the 'Weihnachtsdorf', the year-round Christmas shop. Our afternoon journey leads south on the 'Romantic Road', toward the beautiful Bavarian Alps. This area is rich in unspoiled countryside, historic castles, and medieval villages. We'll make a rest stop in one of the enchanting towns, en route to *Best Western Hotel Dasing Augsburg* (or similar), where we will check in for welcome a dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Hotel Website: www.bestwestern.de/hotels/dasing*

DAY 4 – AUGSBURG~MUNICH~INNSBRUCK: Following breakfast and hotel check out, depart to Munich, the elegant capital of Bavaria. We will enter the city via the Olympic Village, the Bohemian district of Schwabing, Victory Gate and the stately buildings, which line the Ludwig Strasse. The focal point is Marien Platz with the famous 'Glockenspiel' show at 11:00 a.m. For lunch, consider the 'Hofbräuhaus', the world's most famous beer hall, which provides you with a taste of 'Oktoberfest' year-round. The 'Old Town' is a 'pedestrian-only' zone, where the old city gates and historic buildings are cleverly interspersed with attractive, modern store fronts, and open spaces with benches and outdoor food stands. After lunch, head south to the Austrian border and travel along the Inn River as it winds its way through the Austrian mountains to the Imperial City of Innsbruck. The surrounding mountains and the regal Inn River contribute to one of Europe's most picturesque settings. See the Imperial Church, the Golden Roof, Maria Theresia Boulevard, and the Triumphal Gate. We will check in to *Hotel Alpinpark Innsbruck*, (or similar) for dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Hotel website: www.innsbruck-hotels.at/alpinpark*

DAY 5 – INNSBRUCK: After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a day of leisure. Spend your day relaxing amidst the marvelous mountain scenery, exploring Innsbruck on your own. Or, take the optional excursion to Linderhof Palace. Feast your eyes on the majestic mountains, green valleys, rushing rivers, storybook villages, and lovely chalets with flower-laden balconies. Dinner will be on our own. Overnight at hotel. (B)

DAY 6 – INNSBRUCK~LAKE GARDA~VERONA: This morning, after breakfast and hotel check out, we are off to the striking Dolomite Mountains, by way of the scenic Brenner Pass 'Europa Bridge', a spectacular connector between Austria and Italy. Later, you are in for a special treat, as you descend to Italy's largest lake, the stunningly beautiful Lake Garda. In some places, the rocky shores seem to rise straight up from the lake. Its sheltered location gives the area a subtropical climate, rich in vegetation, including Oleander bushes with their profusion of red, white, and pink blooms, olive groves, laurel trees, peaches, and grapes which produce some of the famous Italian wines. There will be time to stroll along the lake front, browse through the quaint markets, and enjoy a gelato! From here, it's just a short ride to the legendary city of Verona, made famous by Shakespeare's tragic story of 'Romeo and Juliet'. We will check in to *Hotel Monaco Verona* (or similar). Dinner will be on our own tonight. Overnight. (B) *Hotel Website: www.hotel-monaco-vr.com*

DAY 7 – VERONA: Following breakfast, enjoy a day of leisure. Return to Lake Garda or browse through Verona on your own. Another choice is to join the optional excursion to Venice. Dinner will be on our own this evening. Overnight at our hotel. (B)

DAY 8 – VERONA~LUGANO~LUCERNE: Following breakfast and hotel check out, travel north towards the unsurpassed splendor of the Italian and Swiss lake districts. This region's natural beauty abounds, as you will see traveling past its pristine lakes, grand mountains, and unspoiled countryside. Feast your eyes on pretty little villas with snow-capped peaks looming in the distance, as you cross the border into Switzerland. Often referred to as the 'Rio de Janeiro of the Old Continent', Lugano is the perfect spot for a lunch break (on our own). Travel through William Tell country and along the edge of gorgeous Lake Lucerne, and see the serene beauty of the Swiss Alps come alive. The rising peaks of Rigi and Pilatus, standing guard over this vast water basin, create one of the most imposing sights in Europe. Check into *Hotel Drei Könige Luzern* (or similar) prior to dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Hotel Website: www.drei-koenige.ch/welcome.html*

DAY 9 – LUCERNE: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. First stop today is the old mountain village of Stans with an option to take a funicular to the 'Stanserhorn', during which you will enjoy some of the most incredible alpine vistas. Next, we motor along the lake to the city of Lucerne to see such sights as the Old City Wall and the famous Lion Monument in the Glacier Garden. This inspiring stone carving, hewn out of natural rock, commemorates the heroic death of Swiss soldiers who defended Louis the XVI during the French Revolution. The rest of the day is yours to explore, or to simply relax on one of the lovely lake shore promenades. Venture out for dinner on your own or join the Swiss Lake Boat Ride & Dinner (optional). Overnight at our hotel. (B)

DAY 10 – LAKE LUCERNE~BURGUNDY WINE REGION~BEAUNE~APPOIGNY: After breakfast and hotel check out, follow the Swiss Autobahn to Basel, strategically located where Switzerland, Germany, and France meet and where the Rhine River becomes navigable. The mountains give way to hilltop villages and rustic vineyards. Visit Beaune, center of Burgundy wine country and one of the best preserved medieval cities in this area. Take time for independent lunch, browse the local wine shops, or visit the 'Hospices Museum', built in the 15th century as a hospital for the destitute, now housing items used in hospitals in the Middle Ages, as well as furniture, pottery, paintings and tapestries. The architectural splendor has been preserved. Next, continue to Auxerre, idyllically-situated on the Yonne River, and check in to *Hotel Mercure Auxerre Nord* (or similar) for dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Hotel Website: www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-0348-mercure-auxerre-nord/index.shtml*

DAY 11 – APPOIGNY~PARIS: After breakfast and hotel check out, we will travel to Paris, the busy and captivating French capital. What a thrill it is to enter such a celebrated city, rich in history, art and architecture. With so much to see and do, you need to prioritize your interests, from shopping, museums (the Louvre Museum is closed on Tuesdays and other museums are closed on Mondays), ascending the Eiffel Tower, and any other special interests you may have. Upon arrival at the Statue of Joan of Arc, adjacent to the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde, our tour manager will tell us about the location of the principal sights and stores, such as the Opera, the famous 'Galleries Lafayette' department store, Champs Élysées and Notre Dame Cathedral. We will have the choice of sightseeing on our own or joining our tour manager on an optional 'River Cruise' excursion. Transfer to the Hotel Residence Europe Clichy Paris (or similar) for check in. Afterwards, we may choose to spend the evening on our own, or join the optional 'Paris Evening' excursion, with dinner at a characteristic French bistro in the heart of Paris. (B) *Hotel Website: www.hotel-residence-europe.com*

DAY 12 – PARIS~ANTWERP~ALMERE: Enjoy breakfast and check out of the hotel before traveling North from Paris to the French/Belgian border, with a coffee break near Lille, cultural capital of Northwestern France. Entering Belgium, enjoy free time in the Flemish capital of Antwerp, known for its convivial atmosphere and outdoor cafes. Try irresistible Belgian waffles and chocolates, and check out fine lace in the quaint streets surrounding the city's distinctive Grand Square. This afternoon, enter 'Nederland', also known as 'The Netherlands' or 'Holland'. It is a country with very strong historical ties to the United States. Enjoy the flat, Dutch countryside characterized by canals, bridges, dikes, and windmills. The western part of Holland was 'wrestled' from the sea, and still today lies below sea level. It is protected from flooding by an intricate system of dikes and pumps, much of which you will witness on your way to Almere. Upon arrival, we will check in to *Apolla Hotel in Almere* (or similar) for dinner and overnight. (B, D). *Hotel Website: www.apollohotelsresorts.com/hotels-en-us/the-netherlands/almere-en-us*

DAY 13 – ALMERE: After breakfast at the hotel, this day is all yours to spend as you like. Consider taking advantage of Holland's efficient bus and railway network to a myriad of interesting places less than an hour away. Bikes are available for rent in many places. There's also a full-day optional 'Grand Holland' excursion, featuring a kaleidoscopic overview of Holland. The excursion includes the unique countryside, a picturesque Dutch village, and an afternoon in Amsterdam, one of the great cities of the world, renowned for its impressive architecture and world famous museums, offering a window to the past, while at the same time, being a vibrant, modern city. The many shops and pubs are staffed with friendly locals who speak perfect English. In the evening, return to your hotel for dinner. (B, D)

DAY 14 – ALMERE~RHINE RIVER CRUISE~RUDESHEIM: Today after breakfast and hotel check out, we'll come full circle, returning to Frankfurt, where we started. Soon after we depart Almere, we will reach the city of Arnhem, immortalized by the WW II movie 'A Bridge Too Far'. Next, cross the border back into Germany. Follow the legendary Rhine River to Boppard, where we board a Rhine steamer for an upstream cruise on Western Europe's most important waterways, which has its origin in the Swiss mountains, forms the border between Germany and France, and empties in the North Sea (Atlantic Ocean), at Rotterdam, The Netherlands. On our cruise, we will glide past endearing villages, medieval fortresses, and hillside vineyards. We will check into *Parkhotel Rudesheim am Rhein* (or similar) where we will enjoy a farewell dinner with our fellow tour participants prior to overnight. (B, D) *Hotel Website: www.parkhotel-ruedesheim.de*

DAY 15 – FRANKFURT~INTERMEDIATE CITY~BOSTON: After breakfast and hotel check-out, we will be transferred to the airport where we will board our return flight to Boston (*via intermediate city*) with full meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight. (B)

OUR 15 DAY/13 NIGHT GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Round trip motorcoach transportation to and from Boston's Logan International Airport. FREE with a minimum of 35 paying passengers. Additional charge with fewer than 35.
- Special meet and-greet-service and assistance at Boston's Logan Airport by a Durgan Travel Representative.
- Regularly scheduled transatlantic flights Boston-Intermediate-Frankfurt and return with full meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in-flight.
- Porterage of luggage at the hotels.
- All transfers and sightseeing aboard a private, deluxe, temperature-controlled, private motorcoach.
- 13-night accommodations as described in the itinerary, based-on twin occupancy. The Single Supplement is an additional \$1199 per single. *Single rooms/rates subject to availability at time of booking.* Triples are available at the twin rate.
- Comprehensive sightseeing package as described in the itinerary with entrance fees included where applicable (optional excursions are at an additional cost).
- Breakfast (B) each morning, and 8 dinners (D).
- Services of a professional Tour Escort who will accompany our group throughout the tour.
- Expert English-speaking guides where required while touring.
- Complimentary Durgan Travel Service flight bag and complete packet of required travel documents.

A \$450 DEPOSIT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT OF FLYER. THE BALANCE IS DUE 75 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE DATE.

For More Information call:

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