

EUROPEAN DISCOVERY WINTER TOUR



CONTIKI ITINERARY



Day 1

London to Amsterdam

Meet up with your Contiki Crew before we hit the road and take a ferry past the White Cliffs of Dover. Next stop: the buzzing, free-wheeling city of Amsterdam.

Check out Amsterdam's eye-opening Red Light District, where the creative and wacky come together on narrow cobbled streets, 24/7.

With an optional evening canal cruise, you've got a chance to get to know the group, unwind with a few drinks and uncover Amsterdam at water level. Get some pointers on the city's hot spots from your Tour Manager and head into town for a fun night out.

Hotel Dinner

- See the White Cliffs of Dover
- See the city's canals & gable houses by night
- Canal Cruise (1.5 hours) Euro 29.00

Day 2

Amsterdam to Rhine Valley

Experience Amsterdam's coffee shops, museums and cool, quirky boutiques. In your free time, wander along shady canals and pass gabled houses or hop on two wheels like the laid-back locals and bike through the centre of town.

Chill out while the coach follows the Rhine River, weaving through valleys dotted with castles and vineyards.

Next stop - the pretty, old-world village of St Goar, complete with fairy-tale castle and even a free standing cuckoo clock! Kick back with a glass of local wine and choose to find out more with the optional wine tasting in a candlelit underground cellar.

Hotel Breakfast, Dinner

- Scenic drive along the Rhine River
- See the Lorelei Rock

Day 3

Rhine Valley to Munich

Travelling south, pull into the home of the world-famous Oktoberfest, Munich - a city that blends traditional Bavarian culture with a modern lifestyle.

Explore the heart of Munich's Old Town with the crew, and head to Marienplatz. It's a central gathering spot famous for the Glockenspiel - a gothic clock, complete with 32 dancing figures and 43 chiming bells.

Get off the beaten track and onto Munich's side streets with our Local Guide on a walking tour around the city – it's a great way to see the sights.

Then, get a taste of tradition at a typical beer hall. Park yourself at a long wooden table, order yourself some hearty local food, like roasted pork, and quench your thirst with a stein of one of Germany's 5000 brews.

Hotel Breakfast

- See the Glockenspiel & Marienplatz
- Visit a traditional beerhall
- Locally guided tour of Munich

Day 4

Munich to Innsbruck

We continue through impressive mountain scenery into Austria. Explore the cobbled streets of the Winter Olympic town Innsbruck with its magnificent Royal Palace and Imperial church. Don't forget to try a piece of delicious Austrian strudel and some local schnaps!

Hotel Breakfast, Dinner

- See the Golden Roof, Royal Palace & Olympic Ski Jump

Day 5

Innsbruck to Venice

This morning, roll on to Venice. Take some time to practice your Italian phrases on the coach as we travel through the Brenner Pass.

Known as the "floating city", Venice is packed with character, crammed with hidden lanes and linked by a network of canals.

Jump on our private boat and travel through the waters of the lagoon to visit the city's historical heart. The limestone Bridge of Sighs, the gothic arches of Doges' Palace and the expanse of St Mark's Square (pigeons and all!) show Venice's unique beauty and way of life.

Learn about local artistry with a traditional glass blowing demonstration – a craft Venice has been famous for since the 13th century.

Take some time to explore the floating city and lose yourself in the backstreets. There's an optional walking tour where you can discover the labyrinth of interweaving lanes, waterways, palaces, piazzas and markets with our Local Guide. You'll see historic monuments, hidden treasures and the Rialto market - a local favourite for food shopping.

Maybe grab a table on St Mark's Square and eat some delicious Italian food al fresco.

Cap off the day with an optional gondola ride with your friends. Take a bottle of prosecco (Italian champagne) and toast this awesome experience as you are punted through the waterways.

Hotel Breakfast

- Scenic drive past vineyards, orchards & castles
- Private boat through the canals & islands of Venice
- See the Bridge of Sighs, the Doges' Palace & St. Mark's Square
- Venice walking tour Euro 11.00
- Gondola ride Euro 21.00
- Venetian restaurant Euro 29.00

Day 6

Venice to Rome

Criss-cross the Apennine Mountains on the road to Rome.

Stylish Rome oozes energy and overflows with relics from another age. Our special access coach tour gets you right into the thriving atmosphere of this living timeline as your Tour Manager shows you the Colosseum and Piazza Venezia. Continue on foot to check out the Pantheon and Piazza Navona. Honour tradition at the Trevi Fountain and throw a coin in the fountain's waters (it's meant to improve your chances of returning to Rome!) or maybe hang out with your new friends at the Spanish Steps, sit back with a few slices of pizza and people watch.

Hotel Breakfast, Dinner

- See the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, Piazza Venezia, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon & Piazza Navona

Day 7

Rome

This morning, make the most of our local guide's inside knowledge with an optional guided tour of the Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. Then check out Rome's Imperial glory by visiting the Colosseum and Roman Forum.

Take off into the city and absorb the atmosphere, as vespas flash past timeworn monuments that are surrounded by fountains, pizzerias, cafes and bars.

Before you hit the shops, let your Tour Manager point you in the right direction with some tips on the best buys.

Use your free time and live the local lifestyle by indulging in a long lunch on a paved piazza or knock back a shot of espresso at the bar, just like the Romans.

Hotel Breakfast

- Special access Rome sightseeing coach tour
- See St. Peter's Basilica
- Vatican Tour Euro 33.00

Day 8

Rome to Florence

Next up: Umbria's rustic hills and many vineyards. Travel past the iconic cypress trees of this olive-oil producing region, to the Renaissance city of Florence.

The scene-stealing Duomo cathedral rises above the city. Get the inside track on Florence's cultural beginnings from our local guide as the group explores streets crammed with artworks from masters like Michelangelo. Then, take a look into a skilful demonstration of Florentine leather making and understand this region's traditional art.

The city's markets are a great place to hang out and bargain. Grab a gelato in your free time and enjoy the feel of this gorgeous city.

Tonight there's a choice of a group dinner – an authentic Italian feast in the Tuscan hillsides, where you'll get to indulge in regional dishes & sip on local Chianti wine. Afterwards, take it up a notch & opt to head with the group to one of Florence's top clubs where you can show off your moves on the dance floor.

Hotel Breakfast

- Discover The Statue of David, the Ponte Vecchio, Medici Palace & much more on our locally guided walking tour
- See the Duomo, Basilica Santa Croce, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistry & Piazza della Signoria
- Learn about Florence's leather craft with a demonstration
- Souvenir group photo Euro 11.50
- Tuscan evening Euro 38.00
- Space Electronic Disco Euro 13.00

Day 9

Florence to Lucerne

With covered wooden bridges, cobbled lanes and quaint buildings, Lucerne's centre is perfect to explore on foot. Also to stock up on lots of genuine Swiss chocolate! Your Tour Manager can give you pointers on where to pick up the best-priced watches that Switzerland is so famous for.

Hotel Breakfast, Dinner

- See the Wooden Chapel Bridge
- View the Lion Monument

Day 10

Lucerne to Paris

With down-time on the coach, plug in your MP3, chill out to some music and chat with friends while travelling through the scenic wine producing region of Burgundy.

Tonight, the group kick-starts Paris with the "Tour of Illuminations", which shows off the French capital's transformation into the "City of Lights". Lamp-lit bridges and cool little cafés give us a real taste of Paris' romance. Your Tour Manager will fill you in on the world's most-recognised monuments, like the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe.

After the tour, enjoy another angle on the city with our included cruise along the River Seine. The lights of Paris and its buildings are spectacular when seen from the water.

Hotel Breakfast, Dinner

- See the Chablis & Burgundy vineyards
- Evening Tour of Illuminations
- See the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, the Champs Élysées, and Notre Dame Cathedral
- Paris by night cruise on River Seine

Day 11

Paris

Next up: Fragonard! This perfumery has an elegant interior and is a unique setting for a look into the history of perfume. It's also a chance to pick up some French perfume at great prices.

This town is loaded with possibilities. Discover its many bistros, museums, tree-lined avenues and diverse quartiers (neighbourhoods). Get a feel for French flair by window shopping on the Left Bank. Step into the Notre Dame or explore the endless galleries of the Louvre, where you can get up close to the famous Mona Lisa. In your free time, try indulging in some delicious pastries and relax in one of Paris' many city parks.

Tonight is the last night with your friends, so make it special. Treat yourself to the full Parisian night out with a cabaret experience, complete with can-can girls, dinner and champagne. But don't stop there – afterwards hit the clubs and finish up your travels with a big Parisian night out.

Hotel Breakfast

- Visit a French Perfumery
- Moulin Rouge Euro 137.00

Day 12

Paris to London

Catch the ferry from Calais back to London, where the tour ends and it's time to say farewell to your new friends.

Breakfast

The end of an unforgettable experience!