



**College Study
Tours**

**SWITZERLAND, ITALY
& THE FRENCH RIVIERA**

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From pastures to chapels to quaint riverside homes, you'll get the chance to experience significant history and culture at the feet of three breathtaking landscapes.

Wrapped in the arms of the majestic Alps, you can keep your head in the clouds and your feet planted in the storybook beauty of Lucerne. Be bold enough to get the best view and travel high above the city to the daring altitudes of Mount Pilatus. Next, a stop in Venice will ground you in the royal splendors of the Doge's Palace as you trade natural

Swiss beauty for exquisite Venetian gothic. The mammoth precision of Florence's Duomo may be as beautiful as you would imagine, but the angelic golden Gates of Paradise are sure to make a lasting impact.

Continuing along the French Riviera puts you in the tropic harbors of Monaco. The waters here are as clear as any Caribbean coast, and with comparable beaches and vegetation, you might forget you're still in Europe.



Day 1: Fly to Switzerland

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Zurich.

Day 2: Zurich | Swiss Alps

Arrive in Zurich: Welcome to Switzerland. Once your group has collected its baggage, make your way to the Swiss Alps. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

Day 3: Lucerne | Swiss Alps

Sightseeing tour of Lucerne: The majestic Swiss Alps rise behind the shores of Lake Lucerne and provide the stunning backdrop to one of Switzerland's most picturesque cities. You'll see the moving lion monument known as Löwendenkmal, a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 storming of the Tuileries. Follow Lucerne's winding cobbled streets past fairy-tale houses to the Kapellbrücke. Stroll along this covered bridge and admire the detailed murals overhead.

✚ Mount Pilatus: Ride up the peaks of Mount Pilatus.

There, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the city below. Those who do not join the excursion will have free time in Lucerne.

✚ **Swiss folklore event:** Enjoy a fondue dinner and watch a special presentation, complete with yodeling. (Please note: Groups traveling from October to mid-April will enjoy Swiss music during their meal instead of the show.)

Day 4: Venice

Travel to Venice: Travel through Verona, immortalized by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Here you can see a bronze statue of the tragic heroine, standing below the balcony where she sighed over her Romeo. Later, arrive in the Floating City of Venice, where you'll settle in with your group over a traditional pasta dinner.

Day 5: Venice

Sightseeing tour of Venice: See gondolas glide down the Grand Canal before stopping in St. Mark's Square. Look for the golden weather vane, which resembles archangel Gabriel, atop the 323-foot Campanile ("Bell Tower"). Attend a glass-blowing demonstration and watch expert craftsmen spin molten-hot wares.

Doge's Palace: At the pink-and-white Doge's Palace, see where mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, which links the palace to a prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time.

Day 6: Florence

Travel to Florence: Make your way to Florence, the birthplace of the Italian language, opera and the Renaissance.

Sightseeing tour of Florence: Florence is home to world-renowned works of art, including Michelangelo's David and Botticelli's The Birth of Venus. As you explore the city, pass by classical statues at the Piazza della Signoria. You'll also walk across the Ponte Vecchio, a medieval bridge where many of Florence's famed leather and gold artisans keep shop.

Duomo: See the domed cap of the Duomo, which dominates the skyline. Across the square, look for the bronzed doors of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise at the Baptistery.

Leather-making demonstration: See resident Florentine craftsmen perform a leather-making demonstration.

Day 7: Florence

Explore Florence: Enjoy a free day in one of Italy's most beautiful cities. You may choose to visit the famous Uffizi Gallery or another of the city's many museums. Alternatively, choose to wander the city's streets, as Florence's collection of impressive art makes it a veritable open-air museum itself.

Day 8: Pisa | Cinque Terre

Travel to Pisa: Take an excursion to one of the world's most famous architectural blunders: the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Outside the newly-restored tilted marvel, you can also visit the Pisa Baptistery and Pisa Cathedral. Later, continue on to the Cinque Terre.

Day 9: Cinque Terre | French Riviera

Cinque Terre: Spend some time exploring the beloved "Five Lands," a series of five small villages that have been carefully carved into the rugged Italian coastline. Collectively recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the towns' unparalleled beauty is inaccessible by car.

Travel to the French Riviera: Enjoy the beautiful beaches before having dinner with the group.

Day 10: French Riviera

Sightseeing tour of Monaco: Visit Monaco, a tiny principality that packs wealth, royalty and the famous Casino Monte-Carlo into just 0.8 square miles. Pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, where Prince Rainier wed movie star Grace Kelly, a union that ultimately sparked an influx of Hollywood stars and starlets to the French Riviera.

Perfume factory: Enjoy an excursion to the seaside town of Èze. You'll tour a perfume factory and watch olfactory experts concoct new fragrances.

Explore Nice: Stroll down the palm-lined Promenade des Anglais and get a taste of the Old Town. Soak up the scenery, from the white-washed villas to the emerald waters that lap Nice's endless beaches.

Day 11: Depart for home

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

✚ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 11-12: Paris

Travel to Paris: Board a high-speed train bound for the City of Light.

Explore Paris: Take a walking tour of the Latin Quarter, so named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populated the area.

Notre Dame Cathedral: Admire Notre Dame's sculptured façade, rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Ride down the Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. Your guide shares insight into French military history when you continue past Les Invalides.

Louvre: Enter by I. M. Pei's glass pyramid to discover the antiquities that await inside. Here, get an up-close look at da Vinci's Mona Lisa and her beguiling smile.

Day 13: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

INCLUDED ON TOUR:

 Round-trip flights on major carriers

 Full-time Tour Director

 Land transportation

 Hotels with private bathrooms

 Light breakfast daily; 6 local dinners or 7 with extension

 **Sightseeing tours**
Venice; Florence; Lucerne; Monaco and Èze; *With extension: Paris*

 **Entrances**
Doge's Palace; Glass-blowing demonstration; Duomo; Leather-making demonstration; Pisa Baptistery; Pisa Cathedral; Cinque Terre; Perfume Factory; *With extension: Notre Dame; Louvre*

 **Optional**
Mount Pilatus; Swiss Folklore Event

— the easiest ways to —

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