

Olde Ipswich Tours

Small Group Gourmet Travel



2024
Tour Brochure

*Pictured:
Lake Bled, Slovenia*

December 2023

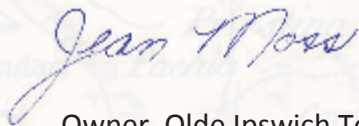
Dear Friends and Fellow Travel Lovers,

Another year out of the pandemic and we are traveling more and farther than ever before! I love seeing the statistics of Americans heading overseas with greater enthusiasm than any time in history. This is good news for the travel industry, of course, but to me this means we as a society are broadening our horizons, stepping adventurously out of our living rooms, getting to know our fellow human beings from across the globe, and inching toward a world where we embrace that which is different. Let us hope this means our understanding of each other will help us to move forward toward a more peaceful, harmonious planet.

2023 has been a year of great change for Olde Ipswich Tours. We are very proud that we survived the horrors of Covid, unlike so many small businesses. We sadly lost Robin Teague, whom many of you got to know during her 8 1/2 years guiding the ship before, during and after the pandemic. Robin is now fulfilling her goal as a teacher. Taking Robin's place is Margaret McNulty Morgan, who comes to Olde Ipswich Tours from Dublin, Ireland, where she lived for the last ten years. While living in Dublin with her Irish husband, Margaret raised three young children and was able to explore all over the European continent. Margaret's cultural knowledge and perspective from life in Europe bring an exciting new flavor to Olde Ipswich Tours, which you will enjoy when you call the office and get to speak to her. Margaret and her family have landed back in the U.S. close to where she grew up on Boston's North Shore, in the beautiful seaside town of Essex.

We invite you to get to know us and join us on one or more of our amazing Small Group Gourmet tours in 2024!

Jean Moss



Owner, Olde Ipswich Tours
www.ipswichtours.com

"Traveling - it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller."

– Ibn Battuta

WHY TRAVEL *With Us*

Exceptional Small Group Travel

When you travel with us, you explore beyond the traditional tourist spots and venture off the beaten path. You will travel with small groups of six to sixteen, which gives us the opportunity to deliver an exceptional travel experience. We enjoy exclusive hands-on cooking classes, private boat rides, truffle hunts, and talking with local guides who don't need a microphone. Best of all, you are sure to make new friends.

Flexibility

Your desires and individuality are important to us. We are flexible and aim to cater to your specific needs. Would you like to learn how to make limoncello in a friend's kitchen or ride with a French philosopher in his hot-air balloon? At Olde Ipswich Tours, you receive personalized customer service and attention every step of the way—before, during, and after the tour.

Local Culture

Our tours enrich your experience by immersing you in local culture. We hand-select the most interesting and culturally-rich destinations and activities. You will dive deep into the region's history, art, architecture, and cuisine. You will be the guests and friends of our local hosts and expert guides, not tourists.

Gourmet Experience

One of our favorite ways to enjoy regional culture is at the dinner table. You will dine at the finest restaurants, tour world-renowned and family-owned wineries, and experience hands-on cooking classes with professional and local chefs. We also offer just the right amount of free time in each region, giving you the opportunity to relax, explore, and get to know your surroundings.

Beautiful Accommodations

We select our hotels with great care. Quality and comfort rank high among our criteria, paired with great service and warmth of welcome. You will receive the best accommodations, based on charm, exceptional service, and location. Most of our hotels are rated 4-star, with an occasional 5-star and a few unique 3-star inns of extraordinary quality and character.

Value

Our goal is to make your travel experience both unforgettable and stress-free. We handle all the scheduling and logistics, so you can spend more time enjoying your surroundings. As a result, your tour cost includes nearly everything. The price includes not only the major ingredients, such as hotels, transportation, and your tour leader, but also all your breakfasts, some lunches, and most dinners. The tour price also covers tips, entrance fees, activity fees, airport transfers and taxes.



2024 TOUR SCHEDULE

February 15 – 28	CHILE: ATACAMA DESERT, MAIPO VALLEY, SANTIAGO, CHILEAN LAKE DISTRICT & CHILEAN PATAGONIA	\$7,999
April 4 – 18	ANDALUSIA & EXTREMADURA, SPAIN	\$7,599
April 24 – May 7	CORSICA & SARDINIA	\$7,899
May 6 – 20	GREECE & THE GREEK ISLANDS	\$8,469
May 10 – 25	SCOTLAND & IRELAND	\$8,399
May 14 – 26	AMALFI COAST & CAPRI, ITALY	\$8,375
May 19 – June 2	BORDEAUX, DORDOGNE & LANGUEDOC, FRANCE	\$7,975
June 3 – 16	NORMANDY & BRITTANY, FRANCE	\$7,299
June 6 – 19	CROATIA & SLOVENIA	\$8,320
Aug 24 – Sept 8	SCOTLAND & IRELAND	\$8,399
Aug 31 – Sept 13	SWITZERLAND & NORTHERN ITALIAN LAKES	\$8,679
Sept 7 – 20	FRENCH AND ITALIAN RIVIERAS & CINQUE TERRE	\$8,359
Sept 12 – 24	CARCASSONNE, FRANCE TO BARCELONA, SPAIN: CROSSING THE PYRENEES	\$7,875
Sept 15 – 27	PIEDMONT & THE ITALIAN ALPS: A SLOW FOOD CULINARY JOURNEY	\$7,690
Sept 16 – 30	BAVARIA, GERMANY & SALZBURG, AUSTRIA	\$8,579
Sept 20 – Oct 3	LOIRE VALLEY & BURGUNDY, FRANCE	\$7,888
Oct 1 – 14	ROME, AMALFI COAST & SICILY, ITALY	\$8,288
Oct 2 – 16	BACK ROADS & WINES OF PORTUGAL	\$7,145
Oct 11 – 25	AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND	\$7,148
Dec 3 – 11	CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN BAVARIA	\$4,795

The tour schedule is subject to minor date adjustments. Have something else in mind? Contact us to arrange a custom tour.

Email: info@ipswichtours.com | www.ipswichtours.com

***Tour Prices do not include airfare, but we would be happy to help you with flight arrangements.*

Prices are based on double occupancy. The single supplement price is available on request. Tour dates are subject to change.



CHILE: ATACAMA DESERT, MAIPO VALLEY, SANTIAGO, CHILEAN LAKE DISTRICT & CHILEAN PATAGONIA

February 15 – 28

From the vermillion sands of the Atacama Desert to the picturesque landscape of Chilean Patagonia, join us as we venture through lush vineyards of the Maipo Valley and the Chilean Lake District. This trip will be an unforgettable adventure with some of the most diverse and breathtaking scenery in South America paired with sensational world renowned Chilean wines.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Calama.

DAYS 1-3, SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA: San Pedro de Atacama is the town closest to the stunning desert scenery of the Atacama Desert. Our tour will go stargazing to see constellations impossible to see in major cities, take sunset tours of the Valle de Luna, visit salt flats that extend as far as the eye can see, see geysers at sunrise, and taste wines from one of the most unique wine producing regions in the world.

DAY 4, SANTIAGO: Santiago is one of the economic powerhouses of Latin America that has views of the Andes mountains. Our tour will enjoy historic highlights related to Chile's modern and colonial era history. We will visit a restaurant with one of the largest wine lists in South America to enjoy wines that are not exported abroad.

DAYS 5-6, MAIPO VALLEY, VALPARAISO & VIÑA DEL MAR: The Maipo Valley is one of the largest wine production regions in Chile and we will taste wine at some of the most significant vineyards in Chile's global wine production. We will travel to Valparaiso, famous for its coastal scenery and funiculars, and then to Viña del Mar, known as one of the most tranquil places to visit Chile's Pacific Coast while enjoying renowned fresh seafood.

DAYS 7-9, PUERTO VARAS & CHILOÉ ISLAND: Puerto Varas is one of the capitals of Chile's famous Los Lagos Lake District region where many German immigrants settled. We will view Germanic architecture, enjoy German cuisine, and sample locally brewed German beers. We will tour the lake district as well as see views of the snow capped Osorno Volcano. While in Puerto Varas, we will visit Chile's Chiloé Island, which is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites and unparalleled gastronomy.

DAYS 10-12, PUERTO NATALES & TORRES DEL PAINE: Chilean Patagonia has beautiful mountains. Our tour will be based in Puerto Natales and will take a boat ride to see Balmaceda and Serrano glaciers as well as visit the spectacular lookout points of Torres del Paine's majestic scenery.

DAY 13: Depart from Punta Arenas, Airport.

13 Overnights | \$7,999

Breakfasts: All | Lunches | 6 | Dinners: 6

BEGINS: Calama, Chile | ENDS: Punta Arenas, Chile



ANDALUSIA & EXTREMADURA, SPAIN

April 4 – 18

From the high art and culture of the Prado Museum in Madrid, to the whitewashed medieval villages of Cervantes, to Moorish castles and fortresses, this trip is a not-to-be-missed tour of España. Join us for these unforgettable sights, plus the sounds of flamenco and the flavors of gourmet Spanish cuisine and wine.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Madrid.

DAY 1, MADRID: Arrive at the Madrid Airport and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy tours of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace) and the Prado Museum.

DAYS 2-3, TOLEDO/MADRID: Visit the ancient cathedrals and narrow streets of Toledo, home to the painter El Greco. Toledo is a treasure of influences: Moorish, Jewish, and Christian. Excursion to Talavera de la Reina to learn about Spain's ceramic production.

DAYS 4-5, CÓRDOBA: One of the greatest cities in the western world, Córdoba's mix of Moorish and Christian architecture will take your breath away. Stay in the heart of the old town. Guided visit of the Mezquita.

DAYS 6-7, NERJA: Visit the lively resort towns of Nerja and Frigiliana on the Costa del Sol. While staying in Nerja, we will visit Granada to tour the Alhambra, which is one of the most important monuments in Spain. Set high on a hill, this remarkable fortress is brimming with palaces and gardens dating from the 14th to 16th centuries.

DAYS 8-9, SEVILLA: Drive to Sevilla and stop in the mountain town of Ronda for lunch. Our lovely hotel is in the heart of the old town within walking distance of many picturesque sights of Sevilla. Take an Andalusian cooking class followed by a wonderful dinner.

DAYS 10-11, ÁVILA: Head north to Ávila by way of Salamanca. Founded in 1218, La Universidad de Salamanca is the oldest university in Spain and the third oldest in the western world. Enjoy lunch and a walking tour in Salamanca and then depart for Ávila, a medieval walled city whose walls date back to the 11th century. Ávila is famous not only for its architecture and gastronomy, but also for being the birthplace of one of the most famous Catholic saints St. Teresa de Ávila.

DAY 12, RIBERA DEL DUERO: On your way to Ribera del Duero, stop in Segovia to see one of the best-preserved Roman aqueducts in Europe. Enjoy a walking tour in Segovia while tasting your way through Spain's most renowned and picturesque wine region, Ribera del Duero, where award winning wines and gastronomy are produced annually.

DAY 13, MADRID: Return to Madrid for free time as well as a farewell dinner in one of Spain's oldest traditional restaurants.

DAY 14: Depart from Madrid Barajas Airport.

13 Overnights | \$7,599

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 3 | Dinners: 8

BEGINS: Madrid, Spain | ENDS: Madrid, Spain



CORSICA & SARDINIA

April 24 – May 7

Explore the magnificent scenery, fascinating culture, history, and excellent wines and cuisine of the Mediterranean islands of Corsica and Sardinia - a blend of French and Italian styles.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Nice

DAY 1, NICE: Arrive in Nice, capital of the French Riviera, to stroll the waterfront promenade and tour the oldest part of the city. Welcome dinner in Vieux Nice near the flower market.

DAYS 2-3, CALVI: Take a short flight from Nice to Bastia, Corsica. Scenic drive along the coast to Calvi. Guided tour of this medieval town. Seafood lunch at a friend’s restaurant right on the beach.

DAYS 4-5, AJACCIO: Head south along the western coast to Porto and take a boat ride to see the Scandola Nature Reserve, a spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive at Ajaccio, the lively Corsican capital city - birthplace of Napoleon. Visit the sights with a local guide and enjoy free time to explore.

DAYS 6-7, BONIFACIO: South of Ajaccio, visit the prehistoric site of Filitosa and have lunch in Sartène. Continue to Bonifacio, Corsica’s southernmost town. Walking tour of Bonifacio and free time to relax at your beautiful hotel perched high on the town’s ancient ramparts overlooking the sea.

DAYS 8-9, ALGERO: Take a short ferry ride across the Straits of Bonifacio to the lovely town of Santa Teresa di Gallura on the island of Sardinia. Visit the fascinating prehistoric village, La Brandall, and the Tomb of the Giants. Optional boat ride to a geological marvel, the Caves of Neptune. Visit a local winery and olive oil producer. Spend two nights at a beautiful seaside hotel.

DAY 10-12, CAGLIARI: Visit the prehistoric Nuragic town of Tharros, dating from the 7th century B.C. Stop for lunch in the charming town of Oristano, and then head for the southern coast to the capital city of Cagliari. Take an excursion to see the ancient nuraghe at Barumini—megalithic constructions from 1900-730 B.C.-- now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a fun wine tasting cooking class in Iglesias. Tour Cagliari, and enjoy a gourmet farewell dinner.

DAY 13: Depart for Cagliari Airport for the flight home.

12 Overnights \$7,899
Breakfasts: All Lunches: 2 Dinners: 8
BEGINS: Nice, France ENDS: Cagliari, Italy

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GREECE & THE GREEK ISLANDS

May 6 – 20

Ancient history, from Plato and Socrates to early Christians. Gorgeous coastal and mountain scenery. Wonderful people. Delicious food. An unforgettable vacation.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Athens.

DAY 1, ATHENS: Your local expert guide shows you the Acropolis and Parthenon, and the Acropolis Museum. Enjoy free time to explore the city and dine at a great restaurant in the lively Plaka neighborhood.

DAY 2, DELPHI/ARACHOVA: Visit this amazing complex of ancient ruins with an archaeological guide. See the theater and the sanctuary where prophets once consulted the Oracle of Delphi. The charming town of Arachova is a great place to browse for tavernas in the evening.

DAYS 3-4, KALABAKA: The spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora is a series of ancient monasteries built high on unusual rock formations “suspended on air.” Experience a truffle hunt in the forest with an amazing picnic lunch.

DAYS 5-6, THESSALONIKI: Take a guided tour of this vibrant city. Since this is the new gastronomic capital of Greece, you’ll shop in the local market with a chef, who gives an entertaining cooking class followed by a wonderful lunch.

DAYS 7-8, RETHYMNNO: Take a short flight to the island of Crete, landing in Heraklion. Visit the Palace of Knossos, the 3,000 year-old city-palace that once dominated the island. Enjoy an olive oil tasting class and local gastronomy as well as picturesque beaches.

DAYS 9-10, CHANIA: Visit the wonderful port of Chania where it is possible to see the Venetian influence on Crete. Enjoy a gourmet seafood dinner while sampling Crete’s fantastic wines. Visit a local farm to learn about local recipes passed down through generations.

DAYS 11-13, SANTORINI: Board a ferry that takes you from Crete to the island of Santorini, breathtakingly beautiful. Explore the villages and ancient archeological sites. Visit a family owned winery. Enjoy this piece of heaven from your divine resort hotel.

DAY 14: Depart for Athens Airport for the flight home.

13 Overnights \$8,469
Breakfasts: All Lunches: 6 Dinners: 10
BEGINS: Athens, Greece ENDS: Athens, Greece



AMALFI COAST & CAPRI, ITALY

May 14 – 26

What could be better than 12 sun-drenched days along the stunningly beautiful Amalfi Coast? Enjoy boat rides, eat sumptuous fresh seafood, and soak in the romance of Capri — la dolce vita!

Depart the US, flying overnight to Naples.

DAY 1-2, NAPLES: Begin in Naples, the vibrant heart of southern Italy. Enjoy fresh and authentic Neapolitan cuisine and a walking tour of the historic center, including the National Museum of Archaeology, which houses the most valuable artifacts from the excavations of Pompeii. Take a half day excursion to Herculaneum and explore the ruins of this amazing Roman city with an archeologist guide. Then stop at a winery at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius for lunch paired with four different wines.

DAYS 3-7, AMALFI: After leaving Naples, take an in-depth, privately-guided tour of Pompeii to understand the daily life of Romans in 78 B.C. Continue to the Amalfi Coast and check into our seafront hotel in the lively village of Amalfi, where we spend five nights. Excursions to the beautiful villages of Ravello and Positano. Gourmet dinners, including a wine-tasting feast at an award-winning winery on a cliff overlooking the sea. Optional hike along the spectacular Path of the Gods. Enjoy a very special evening musical performance as part of the famous Ravello Music Festival.

DAYS 8-9, CAPRI: Enjoy two nights at a dreamy resort, high above the ocean. Take walking tours of Capri and Anacapri, visit Villa San Michele and the Gardens of Augustus, take a private boat tour around the island, and enjoy free time for exploring. Dine on freshly caught seafood looking out over the sea. Enjoy the mystique and quiet of this beautiful island when the tour buses have all left for the day.

DAYS 10-11, SORRENTO: Spend two nights in this magical town on the Bay of Naples. Enjoy a private guided tour of Sorrento, home of Homer's mythical Sirens. Take an entertaining pizza-making class. Farewell gourmet dinner.

DAY 12: Depart for Naples Airport for the flight home.

11 Overnights | \$8,375

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 3 | Dinners: 6

BEGINS: Naples, Italy | ENDS: Naples, Italy



BORDEAUX, DORDOGNE & LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

May 19 – June 2

Your journey takes you through Périgord, the ancient kingdom of Aquitaine once ruled by Queen Eleanor. Known for its castles and medieval villages perched on hills, this region is said to be the most gastronomically rich area in France: truffles, foie gras, strawberries, and did we mention, wine?

Depart the US, flying overnight to Bordeaux.

DAYS 1-2, BORDEAUX: Get to know this charming city with a private walking tour. Explore the wine road to Pauillac, and visit one of the famous wine châteaux of the Haut Médoc wine region. Gourmet welcome dinner.

DAYS 3-4, BRANTÔME: Spend two nights in the picturesque village of Brantôme, once home to Charlemagne. Visit the castle of Bourdeilles, and take an excursion to the ancient capital of Aquitaine, Périgueux. Spend the day in Saint Emilion. Enjoy gourmet cuisine and amazing local wines.

DAYS 5-7, SARLAT: Spend three days in Sarlat, capital of foie gras and truffles, as well as the ancient Dordogne region. Meander through the car-free streets of this medieval village. See prehistoric cave paintings in Les Eyzies, and tour the National Museum of Prehistory. Enjoy a gourmet "lunch with a view" from the top of the ancient village of Domme. Take a tour of 12th century Beynac Castle. Go on a truffle hunt in the countryside. Take a boat ride on the Dordogne River, gliding by the cliffs of La Roque Gageac.

DAYS 8-10, ROCAMADOUR: Drive through the idyllic Périgord countryside to a beautiful country inn outside the ancient cliffside village of Rocamadour. Spend three nights at a family run country inn with an amazing chef. Take a one-of-a-kind boat ride on an underground lake in a spectacular cave. Optional balloon ride over the Alzou River Gorge. Learn how foie gras is made. Visit some of the prettiest villages in France.

DAY 11-12, ALBI: Visit the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum and tour the 13th century Sainte-Cecile Cathedral of Albi.

DAY 13, TOULOUSE: Take a walking tour of this beautiful city and enjoy a delicious farewell dinner.

DAY 14: Depart for Toulouse-Blagnac Airport for the flight home.

13 Overnights | \$7,975

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 5 | Dinners: 8

BEGINS: Bordeaux, France | ENDS: Toulouse, France



NORMANDY & BRITTANY, FRANCE

June 3 – 16

From the 11th century castles of William the Conqueror and the Bayeux Tapestry to the battlefields and cemeteries of the 1944 Normandy Invasion, you'll travel to the more peaceful, civilized villages where you'll concentrate on raw oysters, hard cider, and Pont l'Évêque cheese.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Paris.

DAY 1, ROUEN: The tour begins in the picturesque medieval town of Rouen, Normandy's capital. See the magnificent cathedral Monet painted so many times, the place where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake, and the narrow streets lined with ancient, half-timbered houses. Your welcome dinner introduces you to Normandy's haute cuisine.

DAYS 2-4, HONFLEUR: Spend three nights in a beautiful 18th century manor house in Honfleur, said to be the "prettiest village in Normandy." Enjoy a gourmet dinner on the picturesque harbor. Take a spectacular cliff walk in Etretat on the Channel coast. Visit a cider distillery to taste Calvados brandy made the traditional way.

DAYS 5-7, BAYEUX: Enjoy three nights in a charming inn in the center of this unspoiled Norman town. See the 12th century Bayeux Tapestry and William the Conqueror's castle in nearby Caen. Visit the Caen WWII Memorial Museum, Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery and Saint Mère Eglise with an expert World War II guide.

DAYS 8-10, SAINT-MALO: Travel to the Atlantic coast and take a guided tour of the spectacular 12th century abbey, Mont Saint Michel, France's most visited treasure. Cross into Brittany, and arrive at the charming town of Saint-Malo, your home for the next three nights. Taste the famous oysters of Cancale and visit the picturesque medieval village of Dinan.

DAYS 11-12, CONNELLES: Stop in Camembert for a picnic with fresh bread and local cheese. Spend two nights in a beautiful manor house on the Seine River. Tour the Château Gaillard, built by Richard the Lionheart, in the hills of Les Andelys. Visit Monet's famous gardens and his home in Giverny. Enjoy a farewell gourmet dinner in our hotel's elegant dining room overlooking the river.

DAY 13: Depart for Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport for the flight home.

12 Overnights | \$7,299

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 1 | Dinners: 8

BEGINS: Paris, France | ENDS: Paris, Franc

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CROATIA & SLOVENIA

June 6 – 19

Our Croatia and Slovenia tour explores a magnificent part of old, unspoiled Europe: the scenery is gorgeous; the outdoor cafés are enticing; the people are unbelievably friendly; the villages are picturesque and inviting; there are wonderful castles, palaces, and fascinating ancient ruins.

Depart US, flying overnight to Dubrovnik.

DAYS 1-2, DUBROVNIK: Your journey begins in Dubrovnik, Croatia – the "pearl of the Adriatic" – built on a rock overlooking the sea. Narrow streets, beautiful small squares, countless historical sites. The whole city is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a dream to wander around.

DAYS 3-4, SPLIT: Drive along the Dalmatian Coast, stopping for oysters in Ston. Tour a winery to try the excellent wines of the Peljesac Peninsula. Spend two nights in the vibrant coastal Roman city of Split. The Roman Emperor Diocletian built what is now the historical center as his retirement palace. Strolling around the brightly lit alleys and squares at night on the polished stone streets is an unforgettable experience.

DAYS 5-7, PLITVICE / ZAGREB: Drive along the coast to the ancient Roman town of Zadar. Take a guided tour and have lunch. Head north to the Plitvice Lakes National Park, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the beautiful walkways among terraced lakes and waterfalls. Spend two days discovering Zagreb, Croatia's lovely capital. Take a guided tour of the town, ride the funicular to the upper town and take an entertaining Croatian cooking class.

DAYS 8-9, BLEED: Cross the Slovenian border into the Sava wine region and stop for a winery tour and tasting lunch. Your next stop is the fairytale Lake Bled. Situated at the foot of Mt. Triglav, Lake Bled is "without a doubt the most beautiful lake in the Alps." Take the Pletna boat to an island, visit Bled Castle, and sample the famous cream cake, Kremšnita. Spend two nights in a vacation home built by Mussolini.

DAYS 10-12, LJUBLJANA: Enjoy three days in the magical Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. Take an excursion to see a show of the famous dancing Lipizzan horses and visit the spectacular Postojna Cave. Take a food tour of the historic Ljubljana town center.

DAY 13: Depart for Ljubljana Airport for the flight home. For those who wish, you can continue your tour with an optional add-on to Venice.

12 Overnights | \$8,320

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 7

BEGINS: Dubrovnik, Croatia | ENDS: Ljubljana, Slovenia



SCOTLAND & IRELAND

August 24 – September 8

Optional add-on to attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Emerald greens, Scottish whisky, Irish beer, lively pubs, smoked wild salmon, historic castles, the Irish Cliffs of Moher, the Beara Peninsula, the Scottish Highlands, the Isle of Skye.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Edinburgh.

DAY 1, EDINBURGH: Arrive at this wonderful, lively city, and enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. Welcome dinner.

DAYS 2-4, INVERNESS / ISLE OF SKYE: Overnight in Inverness. Host gives us a whisky-tasting lesson in the pub. Search for Nessie on Loch Ness, and visit the ruins of Urquhart Castle. Spend two nights on the Isle of Skye, and have a full day to explore this beautiful island. See the most photographed castle in Scotland, Eilean Donan.

DAYS 5-7, OBAN / GLASGOW: See the spectacular scenery of the Glenfinnan Gorge (the “Harry Potter bridge”), and spend a day in the beautiful Highlands village of Oban. Try Oban whisky! Spend two nights in Glasgow. Visit historic Stirling Castle, and dine on Glasgow’s newly-discovered gourmet cuisine.

DAYS 8-9, DUBLIN: Take a ferry ride to Belfast, Northern Ireland, and then drive to Dublin to spend two nights and a day exploring this energetic capital city. See the ancient Book of Kells in the historic Trinity College Library.

DAYS 10-12, KENMARE: Stop at the Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle on the way to the beautiful west coast, County Kerry. Spend three nights in Kenmare, an iconic picturesque Irish town, full of pubs and good restaurants and with an ancient Celtic stone circle. Explore the Beara Peninsula, Ring of Kerry, Killarney National Park, and the island gardens of Inacullin in Bantry Bay.

DAYS 13-14, DOOLIN: Stay at a lovely castle-hotel overlooking the ocean in Doolin, County Clare. Walk along the 700-foot high Cliffs of Moher. Experience one of Doolin’s singing pubs for a taste of live, traditional Irish music. Visit the lively town of Galway. Gourmet farewell dinner.

DAY 15: Depart for Shannon Airport for the flight home.

14 Overnights | \$8,399

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 10

BEGINS: Edinburgh, Scotland | ENDS: Shannon, Ireland



SWITZERLAND & NORTHERN ITALIAN LAKES

August 31 – September 13

Explore idyllic villages tucked into the Swiss Alps, enjoy stunning vistas, waterfalls and glaciers, Swiss fondue and chocolate, and boat rides on Italian Lakes Como, Garda, and Maggiore.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Zürich.

DAY 1, ZÜRICH: Your trip begins with a guided tour of Zürich, followed by a welcome dinner in this lovely lakefront city with views of the Alps.

DAYS 2-3, THUN: On your way to the Bernese Oberland mountain region, visit beautiful Luzern. Then spend two days in the mountains at a beautiful hotel on the lake. Take a fantastic alpine journey by aerial gondola, see UNESCO’s Trümmelbach Waterfalls inside a mountain, and visit the idyllic village of Wengen.

DAYS 4-5, ZERMATT: After a chocolate tour and a visit to the cheese village of Gruyères, continue to the pedestrian village of Zermatt, nestled at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn Mountain. Ride a gondola up the mountain for spectacular views, walk inside a real glacier, try some fondue, and practice your yodeling.

DAY 6-7, LAKE COMO: A scenic drive through the Alps takes you to the picturesque Swiss towns of Ascona and Lugano. Cross into Italy, and spend two nights at a beautiful hotel on the shore of Lake Como. Spend a day on Lake Como, visiting the magnificent gardens of the Villa Carlotta and the tiny picturesque village of Bellagio.

DAYS 8-10, SALÒ / LAKE GARDA: On Lake Garda, spend three nights at an elegant lakefront hotel in the resort village of Salò. Boat ride to the ancient Roman village of Sirmione, Valpolicella winery visit, and guided tour of Verona. Wonderful northern Italian cuisine.

DAYS 11-12, STRESA / LAKE MAGGIORE: Spend your last two nights at a lovely lakeside hotel in Stresa, Italy, on Lake Maggiore. Visit the three Borromean Islands and their palaces and gardens by boat. Gourmet northern Italian farewell dinner.

DAY 13: Depart for Milan Malpensa Airport for the flight home.

12 Overnights | \$8,679

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 9

BEGINS: Zürich, Switzerland | ENDS: Milan, Italy



FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS & CINQUE TERRE

September 7 – 20

Explore the sunny Mediterranean coast, enjoy mouth-watering French Provençal and Italian cuisine and outstanding local wines, and spend time in tiny hilltop villages with Roman ruins and medieval narrow twisting streets. Stay in beautiful hotels where your balcony looks out over the sea, meet warm, friendly people who share with you a glimpse of local life, and take in the stunning mountain and sea vistas.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Nice.

DAYS 1-2, BEAULIEU-SUR-MER: With Beaulieu as a base, visit the fabulous home and gardens of the Villa Rothschild. Ride along the coast to Monaco, where your guides give you glimpses of the behind-the-scenes life of this elegant city-state. Enjoy lunch at Le Rocher, the lively neighborhood, high on the mountain, behind the palace. Your hotel in Beaulieu looks out over the harbor with its glamorous yachts and the backdrop of the Alps.

DAYS 3-6, SAINT PAUL DE VENCE: Settle into your beautiful country inn for four nights. Explore the beautiful hilltop village of Saint Paul. Each day, venture out from your flowered paradise to explore the quaint villages in the area: Eze, Antibes, Biot, Mougins, as well as the cities of Cannes and Old Nice. You'll understand why the French Impressionist artists settled here... the light, the hills, the beauty, the charm. Now add the seafood, the wine, and the Pastis.

DAYS 7-9, SANTA MARGHERITA DI LIGURE / ITALIAN RIVIERA: Take a spectacular coastal route, crossing the Italian border and entering the Riviera di Levante to arrive at the beautiful seaside resort town of Santa Margherita di Ligure, Italy. Take a boating excursion to the photogenic fishing villages of Portofino, Fruttuoso, and Camogli. Enjoy the freshest seafood you'll ever taste!

DAYS 10-12, LERICI / CINQUE TERRE: Visit a friend's winery, then travel to your cliffside hotel in Lerici with spectacular views of the Mediterranean. Spend a day exploring the tiny villages of the Cinque Terre and stroll the waterfronts. Enjoy a cooking class in our friend's kitchen, then have free time before your farewell dinner.

DAY 13: Depart for Pisa Airport for the flight home.

12 Overnights | \$8,359

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 9

BEGINS: Nice, France | ENDS: Pisa, Italy

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CARCASSONNE, FRANCE TO BARCELONA, SPAIN, CROSSING THE PYRENEES MOUNTAINS

September 12 – 24

From the Knights Templar and the Cathar battlefields of Languedoc, France, to the majestic Pyrenees Mountains and Catalonia, Spain; to Barcelona and the Penedès wine region: an exciting journey of history, rugged beauty, and exciting cuisine and culture.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Toulouse.

DAY 1, TOULOUSE: Arrive at this lively university city with its grand monuments and rich history.

DAYS 2-3, CARCASSONNE: Head to Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with three kilometers of 13th-century ramparts and 52 towers. Our hotel is within the walls of the ancient village. Take an excursion to nearby Limoux to visit a family-owned winery and then tour the ancient Abbey of Saint-Hilaire.

DAYS 4-5, BÉLESTA: After stopping to visit the historic town of Narbonne, drive into the Pyrenees Mountain region and arrive at the lovely mountain village of Bélesta. Our hotel was designed by two architects who transformed a former winery into a unique boutique hotel where the restaurant is run by a creative chef with a Michelin star. Our local expert guide takes us up to the castle of Quéribus, tragically the last Cathar stronghold. Learn about the fascinating history of the Cathars, the Knights Templar, and Catalan culture.

DAYS 6-7, ANDORRA LA VELLA: Drive through the Catalan Pyrenees mountains to Andorra la Vella, capital of the tiny principality of Andorra. Explore the town and beautiful countryside with an entertaining Catalan guide.

DAYS 8-11, BARCELONA: On the way to Barcelona, stop to see the most important monastery and pilgrimage destination in northeast Spain: the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat. Four days in the Catalan capital of Barcelona. Take an excursion to the Penedès wine region to taste the sparkling Cava. See Barcelona's amazing architecture, such as Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, enjoy a Catalan cooking class and dine on gourmet Spanish cuisine.

DAY 12: Depart for Barcelona Airport for the flight home.

11 Overnights | \$7,875

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 7

BEGINS: Toulouse, France | ENDS: Barcelona, Spain



BAVARIA, GERMANY & SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

September 16 – 30

From festive beer halls in Munich to romantic alleys of Salzburg, step into the culture and traditions of the region. Visit fairytale castles perched over the breathtaking countryside. Delight in traditional local cuisine, excellent wines, and of course, beers. Explore the masterpieces of medieval, Baroque, Gothic, and frescoed architecture.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Munich.

DAYS 1-2, MUNICH: Arrive in Munich. Tour the historic city with a private guide, and have dinner at the famous Hofbrauhaus beer hall.

DAYS 3-5, SALZBURG: After stopping at Lake Chiemsee to see the island palace, Herrenchiemsee, spend three days getting to know the stunning Baroque city of Salzburg, itself a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the lovely town of Berchtesgaden, and Hitler's Eagle's Nest.

DAYS 6-7, MITTENWALD: Spend two days in this beautiful Bavarian village, and discover the nearby town of Garmisch and all its charm.

DAYS 8-9, LINDAU: Visit two of King Ludwig's fairytale castles - Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau - on the way to Lindau, your lovely home for the next two nights. Take a cruise on Lake Constance, which borders Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

DAYS 10-11, ROTHENBURG: Visit Würzburg, wine capital of the region, and tour the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Residenz, an immense palace and gardens. Two nights in the picturesque town of Rothenburg.

DAYS 12-13, REGENSBURG: Take a private, guided tour of Nuremberg and see the courthouse where the Nazi trials took place. Spend two nights in the lovely Gothic town of Regensburg.

DAY 14: Depart for Munich Airport for the flight home.

13 Overnights | \$8,579

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 6

BEGINS: Munich, Germany | ENDS: Munich, Germany



PIEDMONT & THE ITALIAN ALPS: A SLOW FOOD CULINARY JOURNEY

September 15 – 27

Discover the best that Northern Italy has to offer: culture, scenery, food and wine. Hilly landscapes, hilltop medieval villages, castles, and miles of vineyards. The Slow Food Movement was born here.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Milan.

DAYS 1-3, LA MORRA: Enter the Langhe wine region. Your boutique hotel for the next three days is in the center of one of the prettiest villages in Italy, high on a hill overlooking miles of vineyards and the surrounding countryside. Sample local wines in unique settings (such as a grape-shaped platform suspended above rolling hills). Stroll through ancient villages and explore Alba, the "City of 100 Towers." Have a glass of Barolo in Barolo, which lent its name to the famous red wine. Visit a local producer of sheep cheese, made the traditional way with a centuries-old recipe. Dine at a Michelin-starred restaurant that boasts the largest wine cellar in Italy.

DAYS 4-6, TORINO: Drive to Torino, capital of the Piedmont region, where your tour leader welcomes you to your beautiful hotel in the city center with an Italian aperitivo and Turin-style hors d'oeuvres. Discover the historic center and ancient ruins. Get a bird's eye view of the city from the top of the Mole Antonelliana Tower, unique architectural symbol of Turin. Taste Turin's famous chocolate and their signature hot chocolate-coffee drink, Bicerin. Visit the Porta Palazzo market with a local chef to select the finest ingredients for your cooking class. Dine on your creations in a private mansion.

DAYS 7-9, COURMAYEUR: After a visit to the splendid royal palace, Reggia di Venaria, head to the western Italian Alps and your base for the next three days, the beautiful town of Courmayeur. Explore the Aosta Valley with its gorgeous mountain scenery, castles, ancient Roman ruins, and its alpine farms, where you'll taste wonderful cheeses prized throughout the world. Take an excursion to Mt. Blanc, the highest peak in the western Alps.

DAYS 10-11, ORTA SAN GIULIO: Your last destination is beautiful Lake Orta. Explore this enchanting alpine lake with its historic village, beautiful island, and idyllic setting. Your dreamy resort is the grand finale to an unforgettable vacation.

DAY 12: Depart for Milan Malpensa Airport for the flight home.

11 Overnights | \$7,690

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 7

BEGINS: Milan, Italy | ENDS: Milan, Italy



LOIRE VALLEY & BURGUNDY, FRANCE

September 20 – October 3

Beloved Paris and the wines and gastronomic cuisine of the Loire Valley, Burgundy, and Lyon. Visits to family-owned wineries, splendid royal châteaux, and quaint medieval villages, where you'll hear exciting stories of French history.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Paris.

DAY 1, PARIS: City of Light and of dreams. Boat ride on the Seine River and gourmet welcome dinner. Stay in a charming hotel in the St. Germain des Prés neighborhood.

DAYS 2-5, TRUYES: Visit Chartres Cathedral en route to the Loire Valley. Visit Chambord Château, the largest royal château. Four nights at a warm, family-run "gîte" in a 16th century château, where you will make friends with the hosts. Tour royal châteaux, quaint villages, and beautiful vineyards. Take a cooking class in your host's kitchen. Wine-tasting lunch and farm-to-table dinners. Visit Loches, Chenonceau, Ussé, Chinon, Langeais, the capital city of Tours, and the Montlouis wine region.

DAYS 6-7, SANCERRE: Spend two nights in the lovely hilltop village of Sancerre, where wine is king. You can enjoy a glass or two on the terrace of your lovely hotel with a panoramic view of miles of vineyards. Enjoy a gastronomic dinner in town.

DAYS 8-10, BEAUNE: On your way to Beaune, capital of Burgundy, stop for a guided tour of the historic village of Vézelay. Next stop for a wine and cheese tasting lunch in Epoisse. In Beaune you'll take a wine tasting class, enjoy a walking tour, and visit a mustard museum. There is free time to wander the quaint streets and do some shopping. An excursion to Dijon will surprise you with the elegance of this lovely old city.

DAYS 11-12, LYON: Head south to historic Cluny Abbey, along the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Stop for a wine-tasting lunch in the beautiful Beaujolais wine region. Spend two nights in Lyon, known as the culinary capital of France. Grand finale farewell feast is a Michelin-star affair.

DAY 13: Depart for Lyon St. Exupéry Airport for the return flight.

12 Overnights | \$7,888

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 3 | Dinners: 10

BEGINS: Paris, France | ENDS: Lyon, France

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ROME, AMALFI COAST, & SICILY, ITALY

October 1 – 14

This tour through Southern Italy features breathtaking scenery, fascinating archaeological sites, and mouth-watering local food and wine.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Rome.

DAYS 1-2, ROME: Arrive in Rome and stay in the heart of the ancient city. Your local guide takes you to the Vatican Museum, Roman Forum, Colosseum, and through some ancient Roman neighborhoods for an insider's tour. Sumptuous local cuisine.

DAYS 3-6, SORRENTO: Spend three nights in this magical town on the beautiful Sorrentine Peninsula in a hotel overlooking the Bay of Naples. Explore Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi, and Ravello. Spend a day on the island of Capri. Visit the unforgettable ruins of Pompeii with an archeologist guide. Wine-tasting lunch at a Mt. Vesuvius winery. Overnight ferry from Naples to Palermo, Sicily.

DAY 7, AGRIGENTO: Explore Palermo with your expert local guide, and visit the spectacular Arab-Norman Cathedral of Monreale. Drive south and check into your charming inn outside the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Gourmet Sicilian feast.

DAYS 8-9, SIRACUSA: Visit the magnificent Valley of the Temples, dating to 520 B.C.. These spectacular Greek temples make the ruins of Rome and Pompeii seem modern! Your expert guide takes you through the ruins and archaeological museum. Guided tour of the UNESCO site of the Villa Romana del Casale, an incredible Roman villa whose thousands of colorful mosaics have been perfectly preserved. Continue to the ancient city of Siracusa and spend two nights on the peninsula of Ortigia, the oldest part of the city. Visit the Greek theater dating from the 5th century B.C. and take a guided tour of the most fascinating neighborhoods of Ortigia. Taste local products at the town's market and get to know a local Sicilian friend.

DAYS 10-12, TAORMINA: Spend three nights in an elegant hotel in the gorgeous hill-top town of Taormina. Visit the still-active volcano of Mt. Etna; enjoy a wine-tasting lunch at a baron-owned winery. Farewell gourmet dinner at our favorite restaurant overlooking the sea.

DAY 13: Depart for Catania Airport for your flight home.

12 Overnights | \$8,228

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 8

BEGINS: Rome, Italy | ENDS: Catania, Italy



BACK ROADS & WINES OF PORTUGAL

October 2 – 16

Your local tour leader will show you why the Portuguese are the warmest, friendliest people on earth. She'll take you behind the scenes to the most beautiful, fascinating corners of this remarkable country.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Lisbon.

DAY 1, LISBON: Visit Lisbon's colorful neighborhoods and famous monuments with our wonderful local tour leader.

DAYS 2-3, ÉVORA: This ancient, walled town has much to see, including a Roman temple and the Chapel of Bones, a medieval church which lined its walls with human bones. Take an excursion to a local winery and olive oil producer and visit the hilltop medieval village of Monsaraz.

DAYS 4-5, MARVÃO: High on a mountain top, this picturesque, ancient village is unforgettable. Visit the lovely town of Castelo de Vide, and enjoy an entertaining cooking class with a local chef.

DAYS 6-7, PINHÃO: Spend two nights in an elegant hotel on the beautiful Douro River in the heart of the wine country. Visit the impressive Solar de Mateus Palace and gardens. Gourmet dinner on the river.

DAYS 8-9, GUIMARÃES: Two nights at a beautiful "Pousada" hotel in Portugal's ancient capital. Tour the Ducal Palace and walk down the spectacular Bom Jesus do Monte monumental staircase.

DAY 10, TOMAR: Head south to Porto for a visit to a Port winery. Continue to the ancient city of Coimbra for a walking tour and visit to one of the oldest universities in Europe. Overnight in the historic town of Tomar, known for its UNESCO World Heritage Site, Convento do Cristo. Visit Fatima to learn about its miracle shrine, and then Batalha, to see the amazing Batalha Monastery, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAYS 11-13, SINTRA: Spend three nights in the beautiful hilltop village of Sintra. Visit the famous Pena Palace, explore the town's quaint streets, and see an unusual 16th-century convent decorated with cork. Drive to Cabo da Roca to see the ocean from Europe's westernmost tip of land. Gourmet farewell dinner.

DAY 14: Depart for Lisbon Airport for the flight home.

13 Overnights | \$7,145

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 11

BEGINS: Lisbon, Portugal | ENDS: Lisbon, Portugal



AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND

October 11 – 25

Glorious fire-red and gold maples, lobsters, clam chowder, pumpkins, and some of the first settlements in the "New World." Waterfalls, country stores, 17th-century American architecture, quaint fishing seaports, Yankee values, New England charm.

DAY 1, BOSTON, MA: Walk the Freedom Trail with a local guide. Special welcome dinner.

DAYS 2-3, OGUNQUIT, ME: Explore historic Boston before heading north to Ogunquit, a picturesque village on the Maine coast. Get your fill of lobster and lighthouses. Walk the beautiful Marginal Way, visit Kennebunkport, and see the famous, often-painted Nubble Lighthouse in York.

DAYS 4-5, JACKSON, NH: Stop in Portland, Maine, for lunch and visit the Portland Museum of Art, then spend two nights in a beautiful country inn in the White Mountains. Go leaf peeping through Franconia Notch State Park and North Conway. Lunch at the famous Mt. Washington Hotel. Gourmet dinner each night.

DAYS 6-7, PROCTORSVILLE, VT: Leisurely foliage drive through New Hampshire. Stop in the idyllic town of Hanover, New Hampshire (Dartmouth College), for lunch. Visit the Simon Pearce glass-blowing factory and a picturesque farm before checking into our lovely country inn. Visit the Todd Lincoln homestead, Hildene, in Manchester, VT, and then stop at the iconic Vermont Country Store in Weston.

DAYS 7-9, BENNINGTON, VT: Enjoy three nights in the Revolutionary War town of Bennington. Day trip to Stockbridge, MA, in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains. Lunch at the famous Red Lion Inn. Visit the Norman Rockwell Museum. Enjoy the foliage, the covered bridges, and the home of Robert Frost.

DAYS 10-13, ROCKPORT, MA: Drive east to Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts. Follow the footsteps of the Minutemen and Redcoats from the Old North Bridge to Lexington Green, where the American Revolution began. Explore north of Boston, visiting Salem, Marblehead, Gloucester, Rockport, and Ipswich, which boasts more 17th-century houses than anywhere in the U.S. Taste the freshest seafood south of Maine!

DAY 14: Depart for Boston Logan Airport for the flight home.

13 Overnights | \$7,148

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 11

BEGINS: Boston, Massachusetts | ENDS: Boston, Massachusetts



CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN BAVARIA

December 3 – 11

Get into the holiday spirit by visiting Christmas Markets in Bavaria where many of our American Christmas traditions originate. Join expert culinary and historical guides as we venture through the quaint and picturesque German traditional Christmas Markets filled with sensational cuisine and exquisite Christmas decorations.

Depart the US, flying overnight to Munich, Germany.

DAYS 1-3, MUNICH: Arrive in Munich and tour the historic city with a private guide and have dinner at the famous Hofbrauhaus beer hall. Tour through Munich's famous Christmas markets and attend a Christmas music concert. Take a day trip to the small charming town of Garmisch to see its traditional Christmas markets and learn more about Germany's influence on Christmas celebrations around the globe.

DAYS 4-5, ROTHENBURG: Travel to Rothenburg from Munich while visiting the Württemberg wine region for wine tasting along the way with sensational views. The Württemberg wine region is known for its exceptional quality wines and gastronomy. Take a walking tour of Rothenburg with a local guide and visit Rothenburg's Christmas markets. Take a short day trip to Dinkelsbühl to see Dinkelsbühl's Christmas markets with unique regional cuisine and locally produced handicraft.

DAYS 6-7, NUREMBERG: Take a historic walking tour of Nuremberg with a local guide to learn about Nuremberg's unique history. Venture to Nuremberg's large Christmas markets with a local chef to learn about the traditional cuisine.

DAY 8: Depart from Nuremberg, Germany airport.

7 Overnights | \$4,795

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 6

BEGINS: Munich, Germany | ENDS: Nuremberg, Germany

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PRIVATE AND CUSTOM TOURS

You can use our standard tours as a starting point for Olde Ipswich Tours to craft and personalize your own private, custom tour. Simply give us an idea of where you would like to go, and we will take care of the rest! You have the option of a private guide to accompany you throughout your trip, or we can put you in the driver's seat.

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*

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*

Family reunion road trip to Ireland to visit family roots.

*

Family visit with grandparents, parents, grandkids, staying at an Airbnb in Paris, and introducing kids to France.

*

10-day hiking trip through the five villages of the Cinque Terre on the coast of Italy with a group of friends.

*

High school French class tour of France: Paris, the Loire Valley, and Dordogne region, staying in family-run châteaux and meeting locals.

*

Honeymoon tour of the most beautiful, romantic villages of Tuscany and Umbria.

*

Culinary week in Lyon, France, and environs with cooking classes with famous chefs and Michelin-starred gastronomic dinners nightly.

*

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Tour Leaders and Local Tour Guides

When you travel with Olde Ipswich Tours, you will always have a Tour Leader who is with you from beginning to end who is “one of the group.” The Tour Leader, also known as Tour Manager or Tour Director, is responsible for managing the tour and assisting you in any way needed. This person is different from a “Local Tour Guide,” who is an expert on the local history, geography, and culture of a given area. In many countries, laws prevent Tour Leaders from acting as Tour Guides. This protects the industry professionals, who study for years to obtain licenses to guide in given regions. You will benefit from both types of professionals on every tour. Here is a glimpse of some of our wonderful Tour Leaders and Local Tour Guides:



Marco in Umbria



Ildi in Rome



Roberta in Sorrento



Pat and Norm in Ireland



Carla in Lisbon



Dave on Lake Maggiore



Tom in Vermont



Anna in Venice



Nikolaos in Greece



Chef Ron and Student Carmel on the French Riviera



Giusi in Sicily

TESTIMONIALS



“
Stunning hotel. Individual suites with access to and views of the ocean. Dinner outside afforded an incredible view of a full moon over the water with mountainous backgrounds: was it real??
All locations were outstanding from an educational perspective as well as a delight to view. Athens was breathtaking. I woke the first day to the view of The Acropolis from the hotel rooftop.... outstanding!
This is my second European trip with OIT and I marvel at how “perfect” each trip was. Not a flaw in the planning or execution: every hotel was perfect, every restaurant was perfect, the quality of the guides along the way was excellent, the cooking lesson and dinner were “over the top” perfect, and the small size of the tour afforded the opportunity to bond with old friends and new friends. Jean has a special gift for making every person on the tour feel comfortable. She is attentive to the needs and wishes of all her guests, not just the ones she has known before. In addition to the superb planning and organization, I think this is the “secret sauce” of OIT. Looking forward to my next European trip!
- Paul, Boston, MA

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“
We’ve been having wonderful times traveling with Pascal!
We enjoyed visiting Cathedrals (especially in Albi), Châteaux, Museums, and boat ride in La Roque-Gageac! We loved Sarlat, Rocamadour, Albi and all of the beautiful old towns... The boat tour of Gouffre de Padirac was spectacular! We had three dinners at our hotel’s Michelin-awarded restaurant! The owner and host “Francoise” was wonderful! We had many great dinners at your hand-picked restaurants, and we enjoyed their local wine also! What a wonderful trip! We want to thank you so very much for arranging with Pascal for our tour. We are blessed to have had Pascal and really appreciate him! What a wonderful trip you made for us, we thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!
- Hue & Marvin, Kirkland, WA

”

“
We could not have been happier on our Switzerland & Northern Italian Lakes tour with [tour leader] Dave!
He was knowledgeable, pleasant, patient, interesting and shared his passion for the countries and its people with us all. The intimate hotels, gourmet meals, and transportation modes all were outstanding. Gary and I could not believe the hotel and restaurant hideaways you selected!! We both must now go on a diet. I would highly recommend Olde Ipswich Tours to anyone desiring a small group adventure. It all worked like clockwork. Looking forward to another trip soon.”
- Gary & Sandy S. | Florida

”

“
This was an amazing trip that was beyond anything we imagined! The scenery was breathtakingly beautiful, the towns charming and the guided tours full of history and entertaining tales. We fell in love with Amalfi. Day trips included out of the way places that showed Italy in a different light, the culture and heart of the region. Each hotel was carefully chosen to enhance the experience with great rooms, gorgeous views and great service. We will be booking again with Olde Ipswich Tours in future years!
Ben & Jerry W., San Angelo, TX

”

“
This was my first trip with OIT and it was a truly wonderful experience and will remain on my mind for a long time. We had such a pleasant group and were able to make new friends. There were so many amazing sights being in the Alps and the beautiful scenery on the road between destinations. The local walking guides were superb especially in Zurich and Verona. Having Peter and his local knowledge along with his accordion with us for the day from Murren up to the Schilthorn was a real treat. I truly appreciated all the pre-trip help and communication between Robin and myself. She was a lifeline especially coordinating all the forms and covid info needed in order to enter Switzerland and Italy. I look forward to traveling with OIT again next year! Thank you so much.
Wendy, Tequesta, FL

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