



**Educational  
Tours**

## ***Capitals of Couture***

**A private tour designed by Edward DeMeritt, in conjunction with EF Customized Tours**

**Requested departure date: Thursday, March 6, 2014**

*(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 2 days on either side of requested departure date)*

**Day 1**

**Thursday, March 6, 2014**

*Board your overnight flight to London!*

**Day 2**

**Friday, March 7, 2014**

### **Arrive in London**

"Sound drums and trumpets and to London all"—(Shakespeare, *King Henry VI part II*). Ranging from the North Sea in the east to the playing fields of Eton in the west, London covers an area of some 620 square miles and is home to over 8 million people. Prepare to observe the stunning architecture, vibrant street life and royal majesty of this bustling metropolis.

### **Walking Tour of London** *(time permitting)*

Stroll through the heart of London on your Tour Director-led walking tour of the city, 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, where you're sure to meet the world's most famous pigeons, and pause at Nelson's column, a symbol of Britain's once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square and end your walk at chic Covent Garden, where street performers (or "buskers") amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

### **Free Time on Oxford Street**

London is one of the greatest shopping cities in the world. Today, discover why. As you saunter down Oxford St, from Marble Arch to Tottenham Court Road, you'll have the opportunity to visit and shop in some of the world's most famous, exclusive, and popular stores. Don't forget to explore the side streets, including trendy Carnaby Street and exclusive Savile Row.

*Overnight in London*

**Day 3**

**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

### **Guided Sightseeing of London** *(time permitting)*

A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square; site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived, this area is sometimes called "Little America." Continue to Hyde Park Corner, located at the southeast corner of Hyde Park, one of London's largest parks. At bustling Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big city displays, before heading to Trafalgar Square, site of Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Pass Speaker's Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his mind. Snap a photo of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London's South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for an orientation of St. Paul's Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard. *(Subject to scheduling)*

### **Visit the Tower of London**

The history of London comes to life at this complex of 20 towers surrounding Tower Green. The oldest tower, known as the White Tower, was completed in 1097, when it was the tallest building in London. The Tower buildings have had many uses over the years; perhaps the most infamous was as a jail for political prisoners, not to mention two of Henry VIII's wives. The most famous exhibits at the Tower are the British Crown Jewels. Aside from a short interruption during WWII, these splendid baubles have been locked behind the Tower's walls for centuries.

### **Free Time at Harrods Department Store**

London's most famous department store began as a humble family grocery in 1849. Today the building has a staff of over 3,000. This famous store has-or can get-anything you could ever want, from socks to elephants. Make sure to visit the Egyptian food hall on the ground floor, laid out in the 1970s, as well as the toy department where the Queen has shopped for her grandchildren.

*Overnight in London*

**Day 4**

**Sunday, March 9, 2014**

### **Visit the Victoria and Albert Museum**

Founded on the principle that it should inspire English artisans and educate the public, the South Kensington museum, as it was originally called, opened in 1852. Featuring the finest examples of textiles, decorative arts and furniture, the museum is a vault crammed with gems from 2,000 years of history. Re-dedicated by Queen Victoria in 1899 (when the museum took its current name) the V&A remains true to its founding ideology.

### **Transfer to Paris on the Eurostar**

In London, 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 France.

### **Walking Tour of Paris** *(time permitting)*

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.)*

*Overnight in Paris*

**Day 5**

**Monday, March 10, 2014**

### **Guided Sightseeing of Paris**

Discover the city on the Seine during your morning bus tour. Learn about Paris' origins as a Roman settlement as you pass through the Île de la Cité, where you will also see Notre Dame Cathedral. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, and the École Militaire, where he graduated to Lieutenant. Continue down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution. Then, head through the Quartier Latin where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University, and drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D'Orsay, the Louvre and the Pont de Neuf, or 'new bridge', which is ironically Paris' oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

### **Free Time at the Galleries Lafayette**

Take some time to explore and shop Galleries Lafayette which has made fashion come alive for more than a century and has 63 stores and 10 affiliated outlets.

*Overnight in Paris*

**Day 6**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

### **Visit the Musée de la Mode et du Textile**

Your first stop today is the Musée de la Mode et du Textile, where you can view major collections of textiles and works from some of the world's great designers

### **Walking Tour of the Champs-Élysées**

Continue on to the Champs-Élysées, one of Paris' hottest shopping districts. Your Tour Director will give you a short introduction to the area and then you will have free time to explore on your own.

*Overnight in Paris*

**Day 7**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

### **Guided Visit to the Louvre**

The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now 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 Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such the statues of Venus de Milo and Nike of Samothrace, better known as Winged Victory. You'll also see some of the Louvre's most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the mysterious Mona Lisa. *(Please note because of the extreme popularity of the Louvre, 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 museum.)*

### **Visit a Fashion Designer**

Vuitton, Chanel, Dior, Laurent—the list of influential designers from Paris is a “who's who” of the fashion world. Boasting the same talent and flair as its forerunners, Paris' next generation of designers is primed to make the same indelible imprints on the industry in the coming years. See into the mind of one of these future stars on this visit.

### **Seine River Cruise**

This evening, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

### **Ascend the Eiffel Tower**

Built in 1889 for the World's Fair, the tower is now one of the world's most recognizable monuments and a symbol of Paris. Standing over 300 meters high, with a viewing balcony on each of its three levels, a journey to the top is one of the must-do events in any visit to the city. *(Pending availability due to limited group reservations)*

*Overnight in Paris*

**Day 8**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**

### **Transfer via TGV to Nice**

Get on board one of France's Trains à Grande Vitesse (TGV) and watch the rolling countryside and picturesque towns roll by as you approach speeds of up to 170 miles per hour.

### **Walking Tour of Nice**

Acquaint yourself with the palm trees and promenades of this exclusive seaside resort. Walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous as you stroll through the Vieille Ville, past white-washed villas and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

*Overnight in Nice*

<b>Day 9</b>
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<b>Friday, March 14, 2014</b>
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### **Excursion to Monaco**

Follow your tour director through Monaco, a speck of a principality that packs wealth, royalty, and the world's most famous casino into just 0.8 square miles. The Grimaldi family has ruled Monaco since 1297, making them the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the palace and pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, site of Prince Rainier's wedding to Grace Kelly in 1956. The cathedral is also the final resting place of both Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, who was killed in a car accident in the hills of Monaco in 1982. Catch a glimpse of the stately casino as you stroll the streets with your tour director. The aura of mystique that surrounds the Monte-Carlo casino stems in part from Mata Hari, the professional dancer-turned-Dutch-spy who once shot a Russian spy inside the ornate landmark.

### **Visit a Perfume Factory**

Stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean. Here you'll enjoy a guided tour of a perfume factory.

*Overnight in Nice*

<b>Day 10</b>
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<b>Saturday, March 15, 2014</b>
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### **Transfer to the Airport for Your Return Flight**

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

*Itinerary is subject to change*

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at [www.eftours.com/bc](http://www.eftours.com/bc).**



## **Tour Highlights and Details**

### **Overnight stays:**

London	(2)
Paris	(4)
Nice	(2)

### **Comprehensive sightseeing tours led by an expert local guide of the following:**

London  
Paris  
Musée du Louvre

### **Entrances included to the following sites:**

Tower of London  
Victoria and Albert Museum  
Musée de la Mode et du Textile  
Musée du Louvre  
Fashion Designer  
Seine Cruise  
Eiffel Tower  
Perfume Factory

### **Included in the Program Price:**

- Round trip airfare and departure fees
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

### **Not included in the Program Price:**

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Portage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities