

BACKPACK FRANCE, SWITZERLAND & ITALY

14, 15, or 28 Days



GET ON THE TRAIN AND OFF THE BEATEN PATH WITH A SMALL GROUP OF FELLOW ADVENTURERS!

Rail pass and metro maps in hand, this trip allows you to really experience Europe. See the masterpieces and monuments, discover that perfect coffee shop, browse the smaller galleries, and eat great local dishes at authentic restaurants. The small group experience allows us to maintain flexibility and spontaneity and to solicit group input within our well-planned European adventure!

BACKPACK FRANCE & SWITZERLAND

15 Days | \$4199

+ AIRFARE TO PARIS & FROM MILAN

June 26 to July 10
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
June 30 to July 14
(completing grades 9 & 10)

BACKPACK ITALY

14 Days | \$3999

+ AIRFARE TO MILAN & FROM ROME

June 27 to July 10
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
July 10 to July 23
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
July 14 to July 27
(completing grades 9 & 10)

BACKPACK FRANCE, SWITZERLAND & ITALY

28 Days | \$7799

+ AIRFARE TO PARIS & FROM ROME

June 26 to July 23
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
June 30 to July 27
(completing grades 9 & 10)

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Hotels

GOOD TO KNOW...

- On this program, we use public transportation between and within cities, and use a backpack. If you prefer our more traditional European tours traveling by private motor coach, please call us or visit www.westcoastconnection.com.
- Price includes lodging, breakfast & dinner daily, activities, train between cities, gratuities & taxes.



FRANCE

PARIS – THE CITY OF LIGHTS

Bienvenue! After viewing the city from atop the Eiffel Tower and listening to the chimes at Notre Dame, you will have no trouble remembering why you came to Europe in the first place. Dine in the artist colony of Montmartre and cruise down the River Seine at night. Admire the impressionist collection at the Musée d'Orsay, smile back at Mona Lisa at the Louvre, check out the moderns at the Centre Pompidou, discover Rodin's The Thinker, browse along the Champs Élysées, and take in the action from the top of the Arc de Triomphe. Marvel at Versailles' majestic palace, Hall of Mirrors and elegant gardens of Louis XIV on your guided visit. After breakfasts of croissants, fresh baguettes at lunch, and crêpes on evening visits to the Latin Quarter, you will leave the City of Lights with a new appreciation of la joie de vivre!

TIGNES – VAL D'ISÈRE

Ski and snowboard in the French Alps site of the '92 Winter Olympics. Choose to rock climb, canoe, swim, mountain bike or hike with gorgeous mountain vistas. Complete your Alpine adventure by sliding on your back or belly off a jumping ramp into the lake at the unique and exciting 'Acroland'.

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA

– CHOCOLATE BY THE LAKE

Tour the United Nations, check out the famous jet d'eau shooting into Lake Geneva, sample mouth watering Swiss chocolate or look for the best fondue!

INTERLAKEN – SWISS ALPS

This resort village at the base of Switzerland's largest mountains is a backpacker favorite. Whitewater raft and challenge yourself through the 5 progressive stages of the indoor climbing center.

ITALY

CINQUE TERRE

– “LA DOLCE VITA”

Enjoy chill time in the quaint fishing villages of “Cinque Terre”, five small, classic Italian towns built into the cliffs, rising from the sea and looking much like they did when first settled in the 17th century. Hike between villages enjoying amazing coastal views and irresistible pesto (this is where it was born!). Italian feasts of pizza, pasta, and parmigiana, our first Mediterranean beach day and Italian nightlife – no wonder they call it “the good life”!

VENICE – CITY OF WATER

Where do you start exploring a unique city of over 100 islands connected by 150 canals and 400 bridges? Wander through Doges Palace, cross the Bridge of Sighs, discover the 700 year old craft of Murano glass blowers, feed pigeons in Piazza San Marco, and float away on your evening gondola tour.

FLORENCE – TUSCANY

Home of the Renaissance, Botticelli, Da Vinci and Michelangelo – wandering the streets reveals many artistic treasures including the famed Duomo. Admire the muscular David at the Accademia, check out masterpieces at the Uffizi, and search and bargain for perfect gifts in the leather markets and jewelry shops lining the Ponte Vecchio. Savor Florence's greatest

treat – gelato at Vivoli's! Put on your apron for an authentic Italian cooking class – we cook and feast! Celebrate our time in Florence with a night at the multi-floored international Space Electronic disco.

SORRENTO, CAPRI & POSITANO – THE FAMOUS AMALFI COAST

Soak up a street carnival atmosphere in the cliff-side town overlooking the Bay of Naples. Cruise to the Isle of Capri to swim in majestic grottos. Take in Capri's café scene in Piazza Umberto and great nightlife at the hottest club. Enjoy the beautiful beach resort of Positano.

POMPEII – THE FORGOTTEN CITY

Explore ancient ruins of Pompeii buried in volcanic ash when Vesuvius erupted 1900 years ago - these excavated ruins offer a fascinating and unforgettable view of history.

ROME – THE ETERNAL CITY

Imagine gladiators in the Colosseum, people watch at the Spanish Steps, dine in the celebrated Piazza Navona, attend a Roman Toga party, discover the ancient treasures of the Pantheon and Forum, and visit Vatican City and enormous St. Peter's Square. Try to picture Michelangelo painting the famous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and don't forget the tradition of tossing coins in the Trevi Fountain to guarantee your return! Enjoy a final night of laughs before we say “arrivederci” to our new friends and our summer of a lifetime!

See it all on our 28 day programs. Please visit our website or call us to review details of what is included on the 14 & 15 day programs.



“Alex had an amazing time and especially loved Tignes and Interlaken. He made amazing friends and had a wonderful experience!”

DONNA & STUART SKLAR, WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

“I was a little nervous about traveling to another country with people that I have never met, but the staff and the other kids were so amazing. I recommend this trip to anyone who wants to broaden their minds and make lifelong friends.”

JOHN DAVIS, LANCASTER, OHIO



BACKPACK GREECE & ITALY

10 or 25 days

GET ON THE TRAIN, BUS OR FERRY AND OFF THE BEATEN PATH WITH A SMALL GROUP OF FELLOW ADVENTURERS!

Whether travelling by rail, ferry or bus, this trip enables you to have many local cultural encounters through Greece and Italy. Check out many artistic masterpieces and monuments, swim in the Ionian and Aegean Seas, and eat great local dishes at authentic restaurants. Our small group experience allows us to maintain flexibility and spontaneity and to solicit group input within our well-planned European adventure!

BACKPACK GREECE

10 Days | \$3499

+ AIRFARE TO & FROM ATHENS

July 7 to July 16
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
July 16 to July 25
(completing grades 9 & 10)

BACKPACK GREECE & ITALY

25 Days | \$7399

+ AIRFARE TO ROME & FROM ATHENS

June 25 to July 19
(ON TOUR completing grades 11 & 12)
June 28 to July 22
(completing grades 9 & 10)

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Hotels

GOOD TO KNOW...

- On this program, we use public transportation between and within cities, and use a backpack. If you prefer our more traditional European tours traveling by private motor coach, please call us or visit www.westcoastconnection.com.
- Price includes lodging, breakfast & dinner daily, activities, train or ferry between cities, gratuities & taxes.



ITALY

ROME – THE ETERNAL CITY

Imagine gladiators in the Colosseum and people watch at the Spanish Steps. Dine in the celebrated Piazza Navona, and check out the fun nightlife in Trastevere. Discover the ancient treasures of the Pantheon and Forum, and visit Vatican City and enormous St. Peter's Square. Visit the Catacombs. Take part in a Roman toga party. Try to picture Michelangelo painting the famous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel...and don't forget to toss three coins in the Trevi Fountain – to guarantee your return to the Eternal City!

UMBRIA - THE GREEN HEART OF ITALY

Explore the region's charming towns and rolling green hills by guided bike tour. Soak up the student vibe of Piazza IV Novembre while enjoying a gelato. Wander through the marketplaces and bargain for everything from books and crafts to local breads and cheeses. Prepare our own feast at Italian cooking school, and marvel at the 13th century Basilica di San Francesco. Satisfy your sweet tooth as you sample your way through your guided tour of a chocolate making factory.

GREECE

SIVOTA – CRYSTAL WATERS BY THE SEA

We take the deluxe ferry from Ancona, Italy to Igomenitsa and head to the picturesque coastal village of Sivota. Enjoy our first beach day and waterski or tube in the crystal blue waters of the Ionian Sea. Enjoy authentic Greek cuisine in the neighbouring village of Parga.

MONODENDRI – THE VIKOS GORGE

Venture into the mountainous region of Epirus, stopping at the capital city of Ioannina – famous for feta cheese and silver jewellery. Swim in the clear waters of the Papingno natural lakes. River tube the Voidomatis River and visit the many bridges that connect the small surrounding villages.

OLYMPIA – ANCIENT OLYMPIC BIRTHPLACE

Discover the home of the first Olympic Games in 776 BC. Stop for lunch in the beautiful seaside town of Nafpaktos. Dine overlooking the hills of the Peloponnese region.

NAFPLIO - THE FIRST CAPITAL

Whitewater raft the thrilling Alfeios River before continuing on the journey to Nafplio, the first capital of modern Greece. Climb 857 steps up to the Palamidi Fortress. Imagine being entertained at the Epidavros Theatre and be inspired by the Mycenaean citadel. Learn to dance Greek style overlooking the Aegean Sea at dusk.

ATHENS – CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

Venture to the heart and soul of Greece – its capital city of Athens. Marvel at the astounding architectural feat of the Parthenon and Acropolis. See Aphrodite amongst her friends in the new Acropolis Museum just down the hill from where she used to live. Wander through the streets of the Plaka area filled with shops and markets – something for everyone.

Ferry to the Greek Islands of Naxos and Santorini.

NAXOS – CYCLADES, GREEK ISLANDS

Visit the Venetian castle while meandering through the main streets of Hora lined with charming cafes and shops. Relax on the beautiful beaches that surround the island. Learn how to SCUBA dive on our underwater adventure. Prepare an authentic Greek meal in the village of Galini.

SANTORINI – SUNSETS YOU WILL NEVER FORGET!

Once visited, you always remember the classic view of white painted houses of Fira perched high atop sheer cliffs, with the bluest of skies and seas behind. From here enjoy sunsets over the volcano that will mesmerize. Explore the town of Fira and take a cable car ride to the port. Voyage across the sea to hike the volcano Palea Kameni and stop to swim in the hot springs that surround it. Enjoy dinner in the town of Oia. Wander through the archaeological site of Akrotiri. Explore the incredible red, white and black sand beaches on our guided sea kayaking excursion and frolic in warm waters of the Aegean Sea.