



GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL



HISTORY & CULTURE



GT Experiences

SAMPLES OF HISTORY & CULTURE
ITINERARIES

CLICK ON PACKAGES BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS

ROYAL RESIDENCES

ATHENS, MYKONOS, SANTORINI

CLASSICAL ISRAEL

IRELAND FOOD AND DRINK TRAIL

ISTANBUL & CAPPADOCIA

MADEIRA

SPAIN - MADRID, CORDOBA, SEVILLE, GRANADA, BARCELONA

TASTE OF ENGLAND



Palazzo Reale in Torino

PLACES YOU MUST VISIT AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE!

Nizza Monferrato, Canelli, Costigliole d'Asti, Acqui Terme, Gavi, Barbaresco, Barolo, Alba, Grinzane, Cavour, Torino - 8 Days/7 Nights

The Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, located in Turin and the surrounding area, make up a landscape full of monumental architecture of the European seventeenth and eighteenth century. Along the rivers and the hills of Turin area, 21 castles and historic houses are ready to welcome you.

Symbol of the power of Savoy, some of them were used as holiday residences. The Royal Palace, in Turin has been the centre of the court and political power; Palazzo Carignano, a symbol of the history of the House of Savoy, which now houses the Risorgimento Museum.

Palazzo Madama e Casaforte degli Acaja was the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom. Some of the beautiful residences in the surroundings are: Stupinigi hunting

Palace, Rivoli Castle now one of the most important contemporary art museums in Italy, the Racconigi Castle, that was the place where the monarchs spent their holidays.

ITINERARY

Day 1: MILANO MALPENSA / TORINO (130 Km – 80 miles)

Arrival in Milano Malpensa. Transfer by private bus to Torino. Walking tour through the relaxing path in Valentino Park. Dinner in restaurant and overnight in NH Carlina Hotel (or similar). **(D)**

Day 2: TORINO

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning transfer to Piazza Castello and visit to the Royal Residence Palazzo Reale

and its Garden, symbol of the magnificence and opulence of Savoy Dynasty. Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian kingdom. Lunch at the historical "Ristorante del Cambio" the most renowned restaurant in Turin; a real city institution.

Afternoon, transfer to Venetia and visit to its Reggia, the most imposing Savoy Residence, that can be compared to the most important places in Europe of the late seventeenth century. Tour of the place and dinner in restaurant. Return in Turin and overnight at the hotel. Guide tour: full day in hotel. **(B, L)**

Day 3: TORINO / STUPINIGI / RACCONIGI / RIVOLI / TORINO

(120 Km – 75 miles)

Breakfast at the hotel.





Carignano Palace in Turin

Morning transfer to Stupinigi for the visit to the Savoy hunting palace, one of the favourite places of the royal family, built on a Filippo Juvarra's project in 1729. Transfer to Racconigi to visit the Castle and the Royal Park. Lunch in restaurant.

Afternoon: transfer to Rivoli and visit to its Castle, which has a prestigious permanent collection of contemporary art and occasional major exhibitions in an original historical and architectural context.

Dinner at "Combal Zero", one Michelin star restaurant, by chef Davide Scabin. Return in Turin and overnight at the hotel. Guide tour: full day. **(B, D)**

Day 4: TORINO / BRA / ALBA / SANTA VITTORIA D'ALBA 85 Km – 53 miles)
Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning transfer towards the Langhe Monferrato Roero region to the beautiful town of Bra. Little break at "Caffè Converso", a historical café famous all over the world because of the Slow Food

Movement, born right here in the 1980s. At the end, promenade in the historic centre of the town. Transfer to Santa Vittoria d'Alba and check-in at Hotel Castello di Santa Vittoria (or similar). Light lunch in hotel.

Afternoon meeting in the hall with the guide and transfer to Alba, where you will experience the tour "Taste Alba! Enjoy it with taste", to discover the city centre of Alba with a Wine Teller, a special personal food shopper, who will guide the visitors in a walking tour through history and wine and food specialties, such as the truffle, the hazelnut Tonda Gentile and the wines of Langhe Roero. Dinner in a typical restaurant of Alba. Transfer to the hotel and overnight. Guide tour: full day. Personal shopper: half day on request **(B, D)**

Day 5: SANTA VITTORIA D'ALBA / DOGLIANI / BAROLO / MONFORTE D'ALBA / GRINZANE CAVOUR / SANTA VITTORIA D'ALBA (50 Km – 31 miles)
Breakfast at the Hotel.

Morning departure from the hotel and sightseeing tour through the wonderful landscape of Roero region. Visit to Tenuta Carretta complex with wine cellars, Michelin Star Restaurant and accommodation facility. Transfer to Barbaresco wine region. Visit of the historic centre of Neive, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, and light lunch.

Afternoon meeting with a Trifolao (Truffle Hunter) and its dog, to experience a simulated Truffle Hunt to discover the secrets of this peculiar product of the territory.

Guests will experience a simulated truffle hunt with the seasonal truffles. Return to Barbaresco and promenade along the streets of the historic centre with the Enoteca Regionale of Barbaresco and its panoramic tower that offers a 360° view over the hills of Langhe Roero. Dinner in a typical Michelin Stars restaurant: "La Madernassa" in Guarene. Transfer to the hotel and overnight. Guide tour: full day. **(B, D)**





Castello di Grinzane

Day 6: DAY 6th – SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA / DOGLIANI / BAROLO / MONFORTE D’ALBA / GRINZANE CAVOUR / SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA (80 Km – 50 miles)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning meeting with the guide in the hotel hall. Transfer to Dogliani. Site inspection visit to “Podere Luigi Einaudi”, the estate of one of the first Presidents of Italy, Luigi Einaudi, with its historical cellars and the Relais Foresteria dei Podere Luigi Einaudi. Tasting in the cellar. Sightseeing tour through the UNESCO’s hills of Barolo wine region, with stop in Barolo, to visit the impressive Wine Museum, designed by the scenery designer Francois Confino, inside the Castle Falletti, that is also the location of the Regional Enoteca of Barolo, an institutional wine centre where you can taste and buy the last vintage of Barolo Wine produced by all the producers of the region.

Transfer to Monforte d’Alba for a short promenade and a light lunch.

Afternoon: visit to the impressive Medieval Castle of Grinzane Cavour, UNESCO’s

World Heritage Site, that today hosts a Museum, a Michelin star Restaurant and the Enoteca Regionale Cavour, an institutional wine centre, where tourists can taste the best wines of the region. Dinner in restaurant. Return in Turin and overnight at the hotel. Guide tour: full day **(B, L, WT, D)**

Day 7: SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA / COSTIGLIOLE D’ASTI / CANELLI / ROCCAVERANO / BENEVELLO / SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA (120 km - 75 miles)

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning Transfer to Torino to begin a walking tour through the beautiful streets of the old town centre. Free lunch. Afternoon: visit to the Royal Residence hub: Palazzo Reale and its Gardens, symbol of the magnificence and opulence of the Savoy dynasty, is the epicentre of all this power, and where the Royal Collections are held, bearing witness to the careful administration by the Savoy and their love of art; Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom, and takes its traditional name from the embellishments it received under two queens (madama) of the House of Savoy;

Palazzo Carignano, a symbolic place for the history of the House of Savoy and the Italian Risorgimento: as well as being the birthplace of Charles Albert and Victor Emmanuel II, it was the site for the Piedmontese Parliament and the first Parliament of Italy. Dinner and overnight in hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 8: SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA / MILANO MALPENSA (190 km - 120 miles)

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Milano Malpensa. Departure. **(B)**



Legend

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch
D	Dinner
WT	Wine Tasting





Old Town of Athens and the Parthenon Temple of the Acropolis

ATHENS, MYKONOS, SANTORINI

2 Nights Athens, 2 Nights Mykonos, 3 Nights Santorini - 8 Days/7 Nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Athens

Arrival at Athens International Airport, meet and transfer to your hotel for check in. Remaining of your day at leisure for your first taste of Athens. Discover Plaka, the oldest district of Athens, located under the Acropolis, the only district a visitor may see the Greek capital as it was 100 years ago or enjoy your shopping at Ermou Kolonaki and Voukourestiou streets. Overnight at your hotel in Athens.

Day 2: Athens

After your breakfast, depart at indicated time for your Athens Sightseeing tour including the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum. Our expert guide will take you to see the centre of the city, the Constitution Square (the House of Parliament), the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier and the National library. On your way to the Acropolis you will see the Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of Olympian

Zeus and have a short stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Modern Olympic Games were held in 1896. On the Acropolis visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally the famous Parthenon. Your first taste of Athens would not be complete without a visit to the Acropolis Museum, a modern architectural building where, at last, the statues have found their home and admire the wonders and architectural masterpieces of the classical era. Walking tour of the Agora. Later on, we come back to Monastiraki square and through Mitropoleos street, we are going to have a taste in the most "trendy" Agora of Athens. Here, we are going to explore a modern market with food products of small, independent, honest, food artisans. Those local artisans who choose to remain true to their tradition and craft real food products following history tested processes. This is the right place to promote Greek gas-

tronomy and this is the right place to taste the authentic Greek cuisine. Return to your hotel and remaining of your day at leisure. Overnight at your hotel in Athens. **(B)**

Day 3: Athens Mykonos

Enjoy your early morning breakfast and at indicated time transfer to Athens port (Piraeus or Rafina) for your fast ferry to Mykonos. Upon arrival on Mykonos Island transfer to your hotel for check in. Remaining of your day at your leisure to discover the cosmopolitan Island of Mykonos. Overnight at your Mykonos hotel. Day. **(B)**

Day 4: Mykonos

Cooking class at Mykonian traditional settlement, olive grove, garden or a place of special/unique interest (followed by lunch). Retreat to a quieter agricultural setting or Mykonian settlement and join a tour that combines the highlights of traditional gastronomical delights of Myko-





Mykonos, Greece

nos Sample refreshing coffee and learn the secrets of Mykonos culinary treats during a cooking class. We plan a special itinerary that combines beautiful stories with an emphasis on the “symposium” which means original greek ambient with great food wine and culture of Mykonos/ Cyclades islands. Learn the secrets of Mykonos culinary treats during a cooking class. For lunch, feast on the dishes you prepared in your cooking class Like a great Greek meal, this tour is a long, happy, satisfying event that you’ll wish would never end! Booklet with recipes will be gifted to our “students” ! Overnight at your Mykonos hotel **(B, CC)**

Day 5: Mykonos Santorini

Enjoy your breakfast and free morning later transfer at indicated time to Mykonos port for your fast ferry to Santorini Upon arrival on the Island of Santorini, transfer to your hotel for check in Remaining of your afternoon at leisure to admire the spectacular caldera with white washed houses perched on the edge, created by the eruption of the islands’ volcano in the ancient times

Overnight at your Santorini hotel. **(B)**
Day 6: Santorini

Island tour of Santorini. On this full day tour you will have the chance to visit the most important places of Santorini: Profitis Ilias mountain: The highest peak of the island (567 meters) is located between Pyrgos and Kamari. The Mountain’s name is Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elijah), coming from the Monastery with the same name located at the top. From this vantage point, you will enjoy a striking view of the entire island, from the patchwork agricultural plains to the hilltop village of Oia.

Megalochori: Walking Tour at Megalochori, one of the most beautiful traditional villages of the island. Typical traditional cycladic houses, neoclassic buildings and small houses dug in the volcanic rock blend together with harmony. We find here also the typical small white churches with blue domes.

Red Beach: Free time for photos or for walk at the famous beach, well known for the unique colour of the sand and the hill behind it. Soaring red lava cliffs which

drop right to the sandy shore and into the clear blue sea.

Perivolos black sand beach: One of the longest beaches in Cyclades & the best beach in Santorini, considered as the trendiest beach of the island. Offers a big variety of restaurants, taverns, cafes, beach bars & watersports. Ideal destination for those they want to combine relaxation, swimming & good food.

Koutsoyannopoulos Winery Being the only one of its kind in Greece, the Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum occupies a natural cave It is eight meters below ground, 300 meters long and has a labyrinth like shape The Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum presents the history of wine and the life of vine growers in Santorini since the 1600 s You will have the opportunity to see representations of the history of wine and to taste four of the best wines that winery produces today, in a specially designed wine tasting area. **(WT)**

Oia: Oia is known for breathtaking sunsets.. Is one of the most photographed





Oia, Santorini, Greece

places in Greece. It has inspired artists, poets and every visitor of the island. The beauty of Oia is unsurpassed. Small white cave houses dug into the volcanic rock, interspersed by splashes of rich ochre, deep fuchsia, cobalt blue, oyster pink and earthy red. Overnight at your Santorini hotel.

Day 7: Santorini

Catamaran Cruise: Discover Santorini's beautiful coastline with this delightful cruise, which includes BBQ meal with drinks. Enjoy a refreshing swim in the clear blue waters at the red beach, and sail past the big lighthouse south of the caldera. Explore secluded volcanic beaches, experience the volcanic hot springs or simply relax on deck. **(L)**

Sunset Tour: Visits Red beach, White Beach, hot springs, stops below Oia for the sunset Overnight at your Santorini hotel.

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, depart at indicated time for Santorini Airport. **(B)**



WHATS INCLUDED

- 2 nights accommodation in Athens
- 2 nights accommodation in Mykonos
- 2 nights accommodation in Santorini
- Daily breakfast at all hotels
- All transfers as per itinerary in Athens, Mykonos and Santorini
- Private Athens sightseeing tour & food tour with private vehicle and English speaking guide.
- Taste local mezedes
- Entrance fees to the Acropolis site and Acropolis Museum
- Private cooking class in Mykonos
- Private island tour in Santorini, Private vehicle, English speaking escort and Wine tasting
- Private catamaran cruise including full BBQ menu, unlimited drinks, snorkeling equipment and round-trip transfers
- Fast ferries (business class) from Athens-Mykonos and Mykonos-Santorini
- Air ticket Santorini - Athens on economy airport taxes included





Acre

CLASSICAL ISRAEL

Tel Aviv (1 NIGHT), TIBERIAS (2 NIGHTS), JERUSALEM (4 NIGHTS)
8 Days/7 Nights Itinerary

DAY 1: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport where you will be met by our representative who will assist you through baggage claim and customs, transfer you to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv. **(D)**

DAY 2: CAESAREA – HAIFA – ACRE – TIBERIAS

After breakfast we depart Tel Aviv and head north along the beautiful coastline to see the impressive remains of Caesarea, built by Herod the Great and once was the seat of Roman rule. View the excavations of the Crusader's city including the Roman Theater. Our visit includes a new audio-visual presentation that brings to life the times of the Romans who controlled these shores 2,000 years ago.

We continue on to Haifa, the greatest harbor of Israel, for a breathtaking panoramic view of Haifa Bay and of the beautiful Baha'i Gardens with their impressive Temples.

You'll then have time to enjoy lunch overlooking Haifa Bay.

We then head northwest to Acre, for a visit to the Crusader Fortress and the Museum of the Underground Prisoner. See the port and fortifications that enabled the inhabitants of the town to resist invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte. Acre is a city of intrigue, where you can walk through labyrinthine alleys and streets, where we'll have time to explore the remnants of the Crusader, Muslim and Ottoman conquerors. Dinner and Overnight: Tiberias **(B, D)**

DAY 3: SEA OF GALILEE – CAPERNAUM – MOUNT OF BEATITUDES – WINERY

After breakfast enjoy a Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and then visit Capernaum where a 2nd century synagogue was discovered which threw light on the life of the community of that era. According to Christian tradition, Jesus served here as a local rabbi and performed most of his miracles.

Drive to the Mount of Beatitudes, north of the Sea of Galilee. Atop this Mount lies a beautiful church with an octagonal dome that represents the 8 "Beatitudes" in the sermon preached by Jesus Christ to his disciples 2,000 years ago. Continue for a visit to the Chateau Golan Winery, one of the most advanced wineries in Israel. Chateau Golan combines traditional winemaking knowledge with cutting-edge wine-related technologies. Dinner and Overnight: Tiberias. **(B, WT, D)**

DAY 4: BEIT SHE'AN - JERICHO – BETHLEHEM

After a delicious breakfast drive through the Jordan Valley to Beit She'an with its recently excavated amphitheater. Drive towards Jerusalem and stop for a breathtaking view of Jericho and the St. George Monastery which is hidden in a deep canyon in Wadi Kelt.

Continue on for a visit to Bethlehem. You'll visit the Church of the Nativity and the remains of ancient Bethlehem from the times of Christ (beneath the Greek





Tel Aviv

Monastery). Return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

DAY 5: MOUNT OF OLIVES – GETHSEMANE – WESTERN WALL - VIA DOLOROSA -

After breakfast, ascend the Mount of Olives for a spectacular view of Jerusalem. Overlooking the Old City, the Mount is covered partly in olive trees, ancient cemeteries and numerous churches.

Enter the Garden of Gethsemane, with the ancient olive trees believed to date back to the times of Christ. Enter the ancient old city of Jerusalem via the Zion Gate and continue by foot into the walled city. In the Jewish Quarter we will see the Cardo and the Western Wall, and enjoy a panoramic view of the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. Visit the Archaeological Park at the Davidson Center, one of the most visited sites in Jerusalem including a film presentation. Continue on to the Via Dolorosa and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

This evening we suggest a visit to the Mamilla outdoor complex with a variety of high-end stores as well as delicious restaurants and cafes. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. **(B, D)**

DAY 6: DEAD SEA – QUMRAN – MASADA

After breakfast, Drive to the lowest spot on the face of the Earth the Dead Sea, which is more than 1412 feet below sea level! Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Ascend by cable car to Masada to marvel at King Herod's desert fortress-palace. Masada was the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots against Roman domination in 73 CE where you'll learn about their tragic outcome. Afternoon of leisure with time to float on the unsinkable waters of the Dead Sea. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. **(B,D)**

DAY 7: THE NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM

Today you'll spend the day in Jerusalem. After breakfast, you'll be driven to see the Israel Parliament (Knesset) and the Menorah (the symbol of the Jewish State) which was donated by the British people to Israel in 1956, showing 29 icons of Jewish History.

Tour of Yad Vashem which is the Holocaust Memorial Museum. This is the Jewish people's memorial to the Six Million who were murdered during the Holocaust of World War II. The museum contains the world's largest repository of information on what happened during this tragic period.

Continue to the Israel Museum where you will see the Shrine of the Book housing the Dead Sea Scrolls and a model of Jerusalem as it looked during the late Second Temple Period. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. **(B,D)**

DAY 8: JERUSALEM – JAFFA – TEL AVIV – DEPARTURE FOR HOME

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel, depart Jerusalem and drive to Jaffa, one of the oldest port cities in the world today and one of Tel Aviv's most desirable areas filled with restaurants, cafes, small boutiques and designer shops.

It is from the port of Jaffa that Jonah set sail on his epic voyage only to be swallowed by a whale. You'll walk through its ancient narrow streets and the famous Artists' Quarter. Continue to Rabin Square in Tel Aviv to view a memorial on the site where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995.

Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for departure. Shalom (Good-bye/Peace) and have a safe and comfortable flight back home! **(B)**





The Western Wall and Temple Mount

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Round trip transfers from Ben Gurion Airport to your Hotel in Tel Aviv upon arrival and from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport upon departure
- Meeting & assistance at Ben Gurion Airport
- Porterage at Hotels, as of second touring day
- 7 Overnights at your confirmed hotels
- 7 full days of sightseeing as per the itinerary with English speaking licensed Tour guide via a luxury air-

conditioned touring vehicle

- Full Israeli Breakfast and Dinner daily
- All entrance fees are included per the program

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Any tests that will be required due to Covid-19 regulations
- Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff
- International airline tickets
- Meals that are not mentioned above



Spice Market, Jerusalem



Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Legend

B	Breakfast
D	Dinner
WT	Wine Tasting





KILKENNY CASTLE

IRELAND - FOOD & DRINK TRAIL

Kilkenny, Clare, Mayo, Dublin - 9 Days/8 Nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet with your driver and guide and depart for Kilkenny area.

Overnight: Kilkenny area.

Day 2: Kilkenny produces very fine foods and drink and today you will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the local produce. Stop at Keogh's Model Bakery in Callan. One of the oldest bakeries in the country, the bakery has been here since 1838. The owners still bake in the old fashioned stone ovens. Continue to Highbank Orchard. From apple to bottle, partake in living organic farming with a tractor train tour through the organic orchards, a visit to the distillery ending in the stone built 17th century mill with a sampling of delicious Single Estate organic ciders, syrups and apple spirit. Next visit will be to Goatsbridge Trout

Farm, located near Thomastown, south of Kilkenny city. A tour will help you learn about a traditional trout farming system, the art of smoking and processing, as well as the family history and the heritage behind their farm. Follow this with a light lunch containing a taste of Goatsbridge products. Return to Kilkenny later this afternoon and your evening is at leisure to enjoy a meal in one of Kilkenny's many fine restaurants or pubs. Overnight: Kilkenny area. **(L)**

Day 3: Across the road from Kilkenny Castle, take a little time to discover the National Craft Gallery, one of Ireland's most exciting artistic venues. The centre is part of Kilkenny's Castle Yard, built in the 1780s by the Butlers, Earls of Ormonde, as the coach houses and stables of historic Kilkenny Castle. Depart for Limerick and stop to visit the Milk Market.

Open in Limerick since 1852 and providing access to a wide variety of fresh, local, in-season produce typically directly from the producer. This is a haven for all who care about the provenance and quality of the food they eat. It is a place to explore, to ask questions, to discover new flavours and savour the unique atmosphere at hand. Then visit the Curragower Bar and Restaurant. Serving high quality and tantalizing food, the restaurant's menu has won a number of awards and accolades and it is here that we will enjoy dinner this evening. Overnight: Limerick area. **(D)**

Day 4: Today we leave the city and travel into the Burren region. You will discover some of this. "Burren" means "large stones". In fact its name describes this impressive scenery perfectly well.





GALWAY

Often described as lunar, the Burren is a high plateau of porous limestone situated in Northern Clare. No trees are growing here, no land is covering the stone, the limestone is bare. But the cracks allow different types of flowers to grow all year round. The rocks hide many caves like Ailwee, as well as

“Turloughs”. During the day we will enjoy a Wild Food walk with Oonagh O’Dwyer. Oonagh will take you to a secret beach, where a family of wild seals play hide and seek on the rocks nearby, where barnacle geese and wild duck forage on the rich pickings and maybe catch a glimpse of a hump back whale! She will show you how to sustainably harvest up to 12 of our native seaweeds. A seaweed cookery demo will take place in Barrtra Seafood Restaurant which is located very close to the beach! In the late afternoon return to Limerick and enjoy your evening at leisure. Overnight: Limerick area.

Day 5: Today we travel to Galway. Known as The City of Tribes and located at the mouth of Galway Bay, Galway is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture and a fascinat-

ing mixture of locally owned speciality shops. Enjoy a short walking tour in the city and some free time to enjoy lunch at your leisure. In the afternoon drive through the Connemara region. Connemara is a land of lakes, rivers, bogs and mountains. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the South. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour. Dinner is at your hotel. Overnight: Westport area. **(D)**

Day 6: Today travel to Achill Island visit Calvey’s Achill Mountain Lamb. Seven generations of the Calvey family have been raising Mayo Blackface Mountain Sheep on the mountains and shorelines of Achill Island. They will tell you all about their Blackface Mountain Sheep. It ends with a tasting. Remaining on Achill, we visit Keem Bay Fish Products. Gerard and Julie Hassett started smoking wild Atlantic salmon and other fish species in 1985, in their smokehouse based on the island. This has developed from a cottage industry supplying locally to a successful business supplying inter-

national customers. They pride themselves on quality and customer service and their stock is freshly prepared and quality standards. The products have become part of the Gourmet Greenway a showcase food in the areas of Mulrany, Newport, Westport and Achill. The Chalet Seafood Restaurant has been in the family since 1963 and you will enjoy lunch here Return to Westport and visit a local pub in the town for some local craft beer tastings! Evening at leisure. Overnight: Mayo area.

Day 7: Today we leave the west coast of Ireland and travel once more to the east coast and our capital city, Dublin. Enjoy a Panoramic City Tour, the ideal introduction to Dublin’s Fair City. The tour will introduce you to the principal sites. You will Georgian squares, Trinity College, Christchurch and Phoenix Park. The tour includes a pass by Guinness Brewery and Collins Barracks. In the afternoon visit and whiskey tasting at the Teeling Distillery. Located in the heart of Dublin City Centre, in the historic Liberties, the Teeling Whiskey Distillery is the only operational distillery in the city and home to the Spirit of Dublin. Enjoy a fully





DUBLIN

guided tour and each tour concludes with a tasting of award winning Teeling Whiskeys. Evening dinner at O'Connell's Restaurant in Donnybrook which is run and established by husband and wife Tom and Annette O'Connell. Their vision is to create a 'home away from home' Irish Brasserie. Using the best of Irish produce, with contemporary cooking and an insistence on value for money. Overnight: Dublin area. **(D, WT)**

Day 8: Participate on a Fab Food Trail! On a gentle 2.5/3 hour stroll you will visit seven to eight different places, all independently owned, enjoy a tasting in each place and meeting the purveyors or makers. The tastings reflect the current food scene, bringing new international and contemporary tastes to the Irish table and all using great Irish produce.

As you enjoy the food, you'll also learn a little about the culture and history of our lively and charming city from your local guide. Visit to Guinness Storehouse. The Guinness Brewery is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy a pint of Guinness. This panoramic bar gives terrific views across the city and bay

area of Dublin. Afternoon and evening at leisure to discover Dublin. Overnight Dublin area. **(G)**



Legend

B	Breakfast
D	Dinner
L	Lunch
WT	Whiskey Tasting
G	Guinness





ISTANBUL

ISTANBUL & CAPPADOCIA

Istanbul, Kayseri, Cappadocia - 6 Days/ 5 Nights Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival in Istanbul and transfer to the hotel. The remaining of the day is at leisure.

DAY 2: Start a leisurely day, drive to pier in Eminonu area for a short visit to historical Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar). This bazaar was built in 1664 as a part of Yeni Mosque complex situated nearby and named Egyptian Bazaar because spices and herbs brought from or via Egypt were sold in it.

Then, board a private boat for the cruise along the Bosphorus, a narrow strait between the continents of Europe and Asia connecting Black Sea in the north to the Sea of Marmara in the South. In the Byzantine and early Ottoman days, there was little settlement on either sides of the Bosphorus but as of the 18th century, it became a favorite place for the sultans and their entourage where they built their kiosks and waterside residence. Meet with your guide at the lobby and drive to the Asian Side of Istanbul via trans-continental Bosphorus Bridge, unique in

the world connecting two continents Asia and Europe. The bridge was built in 1973, the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. It's length is 1.560 m (1,074 m over the sea) and height from the sea is 64 m. It is the fourth longest suspension bridge in the world.

Visit Beylerbeyi Palace, situated on the shore at the Asian end of the Bosphorus Bridge and built between 1861 and 1864 by Sul-tan Abdulaziz. The palace is a three-story structure set on terraced grounds planted with trees brought from the entire world. The interior was decorated in a style typical of the 19th century – Europe and the original furniture is still in display. The building itself, constructed in the French Baroque style, is made of stone and marble. It was used by the Ottoman sultans as a summer residence. Then, drive to Camlica Hill, highest one in Istanbul, to enjoy the panoramic view of the city. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 3: After breakfast, drive to old town and visit Hippodrome Square, the scene

of Chariot races and the center of Byzantine civic life which was originally built by Roman Emperor Septimus in 203 AD. Then visit Blue Mosque, built in early 17th century and known as Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior decoration with blue Iznik tiles. It is also unique in the world to have 6 minarets. Continue to St. Sophia Museum, built by Emperor Constantius in 360 AD. St. Sophia was for many centuries the world's largest church and today is the fourth largest one after St. Paul's in London, St. Peter's in Rome and Duomo in Milan.

Throughout its Byzantine history, St. Sophia served as the cathedral of the city where emperors were crowned and victories celebrated. After his conquest of the city in 1453, Sultan Mehmet II ordered for the building to be converted into a mosque by the addition of Islamic elements such as a mihrab, a mimbar, minarets etc. After having served this time as a mosque for 481 years, the building became a museum in 1934 by the order of Ataturk, the founder of the Repub-





Cappadocia

lic of Turkey. After lunch visit Topkapi Palace, built by Sultan Mehmet II after the conquest of Istanbul in 15th century. The palace housed the sultans and their exotic entourage until mid 19th century. The complex is a group of structures which incorporates works from successive periods of Ottoman reign. Today the museum displays priceless collections of the imperial treasury, numerous pieces of Chinese porcelain, traditional costumes of the sultans and their families and special section for the preservation of the relics of Prophet Mohammed.

Last stop will be at famous historical Grand Bazaar, the largest “souk” covered oriental shopping mall in the world, where you will find 4,400 shops under one roof where each trade has its own street. There is a wide selection of leather, jewelry, antiques, copperware, souvenirs, and famous hand-made Turkish carpets displayed in this historical shopping center. Overnight in Istanbul. **(B, L)**

DAY 4: After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Kayseri. Meet at Kayseri Airport and drive to multi-level Underground City of Kaymakli, which is one of the largest underground cities in Cappadocia with eight stories. In the area there are 36 underground cities and the original establishment is not known. Some dated back to Hittites (5C BC) and some as late as 6th C AD. These underground cities

were used by early Christians escaping from persecution until 7th century. These underground cities can not be noticed from the ground level. They carved airshafts as deep as 85 meters into the rock and then made holes laterally at different levels in all directions. They hewed an elaborate system of the surface. They dug dwellings, bathrooms, kitchens, dining halls, storage rooms, wine cellars, chapels, graves and suchlike. Entrances at the surface level were also camouflaged. Underground City of Kaymakli covers an area of approximately 4 meter-square. Visitors can see only about 10% of the city by going a maximum of five floors. Continue to a famous winery to sample some of the wine produced in the area **(B, WT)**

Day 5: Before breakfast OPTIONAL “Balloon Tour.” Depart from the hotel with the sunrise for the unique experience; Hot Air Ballooning. You will fly over the valleys of Cappadocia and enjoy the beautiful views of the rocky formations, fairy chimneys and extraordinary landscape of the area. The tour ends around 08:00 a.m. and guests will enjoy champagne celebration at the end of this unique experience. After breakfast, start the visits with Goreme Valley museum consists of steep cliffs and many hidden churches dating from second half of 9th C.

Then visit Pasabag in Cappadocia located on the road coming from Goreme. Highly remarkable earth pillars can be seen here, in the middle of a vineyard, hence the name of the place which means: the Pacha’s vineyard. Pacha means General”, the military rank, in Turkish and it is a very common nick name. This site is also called Monks Valley. The name was derived from some cones carved in tuff stones which stand apart. Currently, there is a vineyard and a number of tuff cones standing right next to the road. Continue to visit the villages of Avanos, is a small town famous for its pottery. It is built along the banks of Kizilirmak (Hayls River), the longest river originated and ending within the borders of Turkey; 842 miles. Those who want may enjoy famous “testi kebab”. After lunch, visit traditional pottery making house where guests will see their own talents in producing their own potteries. After lunch visit Cavusin village, a Greek town whose history goes back to the Early Christian Period. The rock cut buildings have collapsed because of erosion but the churches are still in place and being used as dovecotes. Overnight in Cappadocia

Day 6: After breakfast, transfer to Izmir Airport.





Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

MADEIRA, AN UNFORGETTABLE DESTINATION

Funchal- 4 Days/3 Nights Itinerary

A lost paradise in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, Madeira Island has breathtaking sceneries, mountains with unique viewpoints, famous “levadas” trails that are sprinkled around the island. In fact, the fauna and flora of this archipelago are phenomenal, and easily carries us to an enchanted green world. Hence, unveiling one of the best kept secrets of Madeira, that’s classified as UNESCO World Heritage Site. However, the richness of Madeira unwinds in its streets, unique monuments bubbling with heritage and distinct beauty and distinctive color scheme can be seen in the municipal market. Not to mention, its gastronomy that consists of a combination of fresh regional products and traditional traits from their ancestors resulting in an explosion of tastes in your mouth. Compliment this experience, with a glass of Madeira wine, a wine that’s produced on the island with complex aromas and a distinct taste, gaining worldwide notoriety.

Day 1: Funchal

Arrival at the Funchal Airport. Private transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Rest of the day at leisure. Sight-seeing suggestion: Discover the Santa Clara Convent, built for the Clarissa Nuns in the end of the XV century. The convent walls are covered in beautiful blue typical Portuguese tiles from XVII century. Accommodation at the selected hotel or similar - within the same category.

Day 2: Funchal

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning, we’ll unveil a famous market in Madeira, a true feast for the senses, a mesmerizing and endless color schemes, a unique variety of exotic fruits, vegetables, fishes and flowers. Continue through the narrow streets of the Zona Velha quarter, full-filled with charming ancient houses, this quarter has great historical value with its architecture and heritage. Finishing our morning gazing at one of the post-card views of the city, we’ll go uphill to

Vila do Monte, a stunning place with a panoramic view of the Funchal Bay. For the most adventurers, go downhill aboard traditional toboggans (optional activity to be paid locally). Before returning to the hotel, we’ll visit a wine cellar to discover the secrets of the Madeira Wine and tasting. Accommodation at the selected hotel or similar - within the same category. **(B, WT)**

Day 3: Funchal

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure. Sight-seeing suggestions: Explore a small village called Curral das Freiras, surrounded by mountains in the heart of the island, place where most of the locals live and feed themselves from the crops harvest. One can say this location played an important role in the island history, in 1566, the nuns from the Santa Clara Convent took shelter here with the convent’s treasure due to the pirates that were attacking Funchal. Or, for the adrenaline lovers, appreciate the magnificent views





FUNCHAL, MADEIRA, PORTUGAL - FARMERS MARKET

of Câmara de Lobos and from Funchal to Cabo Girão. Recently, a glass skywalk was built (580m high), allowing visitors to fully admire one of the world's largest ravines. Accommodation at the selected hotel or similar - within the same category. **(B)**

Day 4: Funchal

Breakfast at the hotel. Private transfer to the Funchal Airport. **(B)**



Funchal Cityscape

Legend

B Breakfast
WT Wine Tasting





CIBELES FOUNTAIN AT PLAZA DE CIBELES IN MADRID

SPAIN - MADRID, CORDOBA, SEVILLE, GRANADA, BARCELONA

8 Days/7 Nights Itinerary

DAY 1: MADRID

Welcome to the Capital of Spain. On arrival, private transfer by luxury car, Mercedes or Audi, with an English-speaking driver. Accommodation in your hotel.

DAY 2: MADRID

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Private sightseeing tour during 2 hours, by luxury car with an English-speaking driver. Meet driver in your hotel and, by the end of this tour, you will have gained a complete vision of the city. We will approach the façade of the Royal Palace, the Sabatini Gardens and Campo del Moro. The church of San Francisco El Grande, the fountains of Paseo del Prado, the Toledo Bridge, the Prado Museum, and Puerta de Alcalá are also good examples of this splendid style. **(B)**

DAY 3: MADRID-CORDOBA

Buffet breakfast and private transfer to the railway station in order to pick up the high-speed train to Cordoba. Private transfer on arrival to your hotel. Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 4 : CORDOBA-SEVILLE

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Regular city tour of Cordoba. Departure from your hotel, you will take a stroll through the historic quarter of Cordoba to discover the splendid Mosque-Cathedral. Then, the Synagogue, the Alcazar and we will take a stroll around the Jewish Quarter. In the evening private transfer to the train station to take your train to Seville. Private transfer on arrival and accommodation in your hotel. **(B)**

DAY 5: SEVILLE-GRANADA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Regular city tour of Seville: departure from your hotel. First stop will be the cathedral, one of the world's most beautiful Gothic temples. The dimensions of this cathedral make it the third largest church in the world. We will walk through Santa Cruz quarter, we will pass by the Reales Alcázares (Royal Fortresses), Archive of the Indies declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, where we will see the Torre del Oro, of Arab origin, which dates back to the 13th

century and was part of the ancient walls. In the end, we will arrive to Guadalquivir River, where we will enjoy a tour on a boat cruising the Guadalquivir River. Private transfer to train station and departure by fast train to Granada. Private transfer to your hotel. Accommodation. Possibility to book an optional flamenco dance show in the caves of Sacromonte. **(B)**

DAY 6: GRANADA-BARCELONA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Regular tour of Alhambra Palace & Generalife Gardens. Departure from your hotel. We will arrive at the Alhambra, built on the top of a hill. The palace complexes of the Alhambra and Generalife, beside the Albaicin, have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. ** Final tour timing will be confirmed 15 days before service date, due to Alhambra entrances policy In the afternoon private transfer to airport to proceed to your next destination by flight - Barcelona. Private transfer on arrival and accommodation in your hotel. **(B)**





SAGRADA FAMILIA, BARCELONA

DAY 7: BARCELONA

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Private sightseeing tour during 2 hours, by luxury car with an English-speaking driver. Meet driver in your hotel and, by the end of this tour, you will have gained a complete vision of the city. The variety and wealth of Barcelona's heritage provide a number of attractive routes through its various districts. This way, the traveler will get to know the most typical monuments of the city. Barcelona is a Cosmopolitan Mediterranean city. We will visit the façade of the Cathedral, the façade of the Sagrada Família: a unique creation that has become Barcelona's most universal symbol. The visit continues to the Olympic Village, the Columbus monument and then on to the Montjuïc Mountain, where you will be able to see the Olympic Stadium and Sant Jordi Palace. **(B)**

DAY 8: BARCELONA

Breakfast and private transfer from hotel to International airport. Proceed onwards to your next destination.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights hotel accommodation in bed & buffet breakfast .
- 7 breakfast (hot and cold)
- All arrival and departure private transfers by luxury car in all cities.
- Private city tour with English speaking driver in Madrid & Barcelona
- Regular city tour (SIC) in the rest of the cities
- VAT included in all services



Cordoba



Seville

Legend

B Breakfast





KENT

TASTE OF ENGLAND

KENT, BRIGHTON, CHESIL BEACH, PLYMOUTH, CORNWALL, BATH, AVEBUEY, LONDON - 8 Days/7 Nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in London Airport and meet your driver. Your itinerary today depends on your arrival time, but you may want to visit one of the many castles or gardens in Kent, such as Leeds Castle or Hever-Castle, or the iconic Sissinghurst Garden. Overnight: Kent area.

Day 2: Today is a full day of exploring Kent, also known as the Garden of England. You may choose to visit Kent Life to stroll through the different Kentish gardens and apple orchards on display, or Shepherd's Neame, the oldest brewery in Britain. Why not visit one of the many vineyards in Kent, such as Chapel Down Winery or Biddenden Vineyards, to sample award winning English wine? Prince William and Kate chose the sparkling rose from Chapel Down for their wedding, so you are in good company! Whatever you

choose to do, make sure you stop in one of the charming villages, dotting the Kentish countryside. Overnight: Kent area.

Day 3: Drive at your leisure to Bournemouth today via the south Downs National Park, and maybe stop in Brighton to have fish & chips on the beach, or at one of the many castles in this area, such as Arundel Castle. On arrival into Bournemouth, you may want to visit The Chocolate Boutique Hotel. Even if you don't stay here, they arrange regular chocolate classes, for you to create your own chocolate creations. Overnight: Bournemouth.

Day 4: Continue along the Jurassic Coast and stop for photos at your leisure of Chesil Beach or Durdle Door. Maybe stop at a beach to see if you can find one of the many fossils along this coastline. Cross Dartmoor National Park, and stop in one of



Plymouth Gin Distillery

the many picturesque villages to sample Devon Cream Tea. On arrival into Plymouth, you may want to park up and visit Plymouth Gin Distillery, centrally located in the oldest part of Plymouth. Learn how gin is made, and sample some of the end product. Overnight: Plymouth.





CORNWALL

Day 5: Today you will explore Cornwall. There is so much to see and do, for example, why not stop at the St Austell Brewery to try a local ale, or maybe at Healey's Cider Farm for another popular local drink. There are also several award winning vineyards in the county. For those of you who would like to sample the local food, go to the coastal village of Mousehole and try the local delicacy StargazyPie, or try a Cornish Pasty in one of the many fishing villages and towns like Mevagissey or St Ives. The scenery is spectacular and you can choose to stop to take photos of St Michael's Mount, or visit Land's End or the Minack Theatre. Overnight: Plymouth.

Day 6 Head north from Plymouth this morning to the north Devon Coast and visit Ilfracombe Chocolate Emporium in the coastal town. On your way to Bath, drive through the beautiful Cheddar Gorge with its dramatic cliff formations, and stop in the village to try cheddar cheese, matured in caves in the area. You may also want to stop at one of the many local Somerset cider farms, Sheppy's Cider for example. On arrival into Bath, visit the oldest house in Bath

to sample the local bread called "Sally Lunn's Bun". It's a brioche style bread that can either be had with savoury or sweet toppings. Overnight: Bath area.

Day 7 Explore Bath this morning, a UNESCO world heritage city, before heading west to stop in one of the many picturesque villages in south Cotswolds-like Castle Combe before visiting the iconic Stonehenge. You may also choose to stop in Avebury where you find the world's largest stone circle. Arrive at your overnight location in the London area – location depends on where your departure point is tomorrow. Overnight: London area.

Day 8 Return home by plane, ferry or train. Or, extend your stay with a couple of days in London to sample the many award winning pubs and restaurants in the city.



Stonehenge

