

Tentative Tour Itinerary



Europe evokes images of azure waves and cobblestone paths along its storied shorelines and mountainous terrain. Experience the history, the vibrancy of a culture found nowhere else. Start in the highest reaches of Switzerland's Alps. Stay in picturesque Lucerne before reaching Italy and the lakeside gem of Stresa followed by Montecatini (Tuscany), and the storied canals of Venice. Enter Croatia with its shoreline along the Adriatic Sea filled with remnants of the past mixed with all the modern touches that any world-class destination can offer. Your Tour Manager looks forward to meeting you and providing a smooth and professional tour!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

Day 1 – Saturday, Sept 26 – Overnight flight to Zurich, Switzerland

For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air, you will depart from your local airport and meet the Tour Manager along your route for your group flight to Zurich. **PLEASE NOTE: Each passenger has 1 piece of luggage included up to 50 lbs each bag, included in the Collins Tours Inclusive Airfare Package. Additional pieces of luggage may require fees paid directly to the airline. Fees will be charged on both the outbound and return flights if applicable.** Be sure to have your ***valid passport of at least 3 months from your last day in Europe.**

Day 2 – Sunday, Sept 27 – Zurich to Hotel Continental Park, Lucerne, Switzerland (Welcome Reception)

- Arrive in Zurich, Switzerland! Your tour director will meet you at the baggage claim area **(do not leave baggage claim area without your tour manager)** after clearing customs before boarding our private motorcoach to Mt. Pilatus where you will take a gondola ride for the incredible view of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding Alps, followed by the cog railway trolley returning to the bus before heading to Hotel Continental Park in Lucerne, our home for the next two nights **(included optional for early bookings only - made by Jan 14th otherwise additional \$165 CAD per person).**
- Check-in today is not until 4:00 pm and we will arrive early after and have requested an early check-in.
- Join your tour manager and fellow travellers for a 1-hour, "Welcome to the Alps" cocktail reception with wine & and light appetizers this evening **(included)**. Here you will have an opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and discuss the exciting tour ahead.
- Following our cocktail reception, feel free to enjoy the city and dinner at your leisure (not included).



Day 3 – Monday, Sept 28 – Lucerne, Switzerland (B, Welcome D)

- Wake up and enjoy a delicious Swiss breakfast buffet this morning **(included)**.
- After breakfast, meet your tour manager and local guide for a 2-hour guided walking tour of Lucerne **(included- walking in old town lucerne requires comfortable footwear with support and coaches**

are not permitted inside the old town). After the tour, enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many cafes with free time in the afternoon. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel at a designated time to freshen up before our group dinner!

- This evening, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a Welcome Group Dinner at a fabulous nearby restaurant, just a short walk from our hotel. Tonight, you will sample some delectable local cuisine with a glass of wine or beer included with your meal **(included)**. We will share stories together and discuss further details of our amazing experience that has just begun!

Day 4 – Tuesday, Sept 29 – Lucerne – Grand Hôtel des Îles Borromée, Stresa, Italy (B, Welcome Reception)

- After another delicious Swiss buffet breakfast this morning **(included)**, get ready for an exciting journey driving through the Alps. Travel by premium motor coach to Locarno which is a small, picturesque town on the border of Switzerland and Italy. Enjoy lunch (on own) and some time for shopping before arriving in Stresa.
- Our hotel in Stresa is the Grand Hôtel des Îles Borromée, a beautiful 5-star hotel across the mountainous border from Switzerland to the Lake District of Italy, on Lake Maggiore!
- We expect to arrive at the hotel late this afternoon. Once again, your tour manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room - all part of the Collins Tours experience! Please note passports are required to be photocopied upon check in. This is part of Italy's regulation process.
- After check-in, join your fellow passengers for a Welcome Reception with dry snacks.
- The rest of the evening is free for you to explore this picturesque area of Italy's Lake District. Excellent shops and restaurants are located within walking distance.



Day 5 – Wednesday, Sept 30 – Stresa, Italy (B, Authentic Italian Group D)

- Wake up this morning and enjoy a delightful Italian buffet breakfast **(included)**.
- Today's highlight is our boat cruise on Lake Maggiore with a local guide. We will visit Isola Bella Island, Fisherman's Island which offer fantastic views of mountainous backdrops over Italian lakeside villages; and we also visit the Borromeo Palace on the island which is now a museum during most the year **(entrance included)**.
- This afternoon is free for you to enjoy with lunch on your own (your expense).
- Tonight, we head to a nearby restaurant for a beautiful authentic Italian 4-course dinner with wine and music **(included)**! After dinner, you will have plenty of time to relax or explore this beautiful lakeside town.

Day 6 – Thursday, Oct 1 – Stresa – Montecatini Palace & Spa Hotel, Tuscany, Italy (B)

- After our final breakfast by the lake **(included)**, we will board our private motor coach and head south to our next destination, the stunning hills of Tuscany! There will be rest stops along the way as we wind our way to the heart of Tuscany.
- Today we will tour one of the many Tuscany Vineyards in the area with wine tasting **(included)**.
- We expect to arrive at the 5-star luxury Montecatini Palace & Spa Hotel late this afternoon. Once again, your Tour Manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room. Please note passports are required to be photocopied upon check in. This is part of Italy's regulation process.
- The rest of the evening is free for you to explore **(on own)**.



Day 7- Friday, Oct 2 - Stresa - Splendid Venice Hotel, Venice, Italy (B, Cocktail Reception)

- Enjoy another Italian buffet breakfast **(included)** in this stunningly picturesque setting before we depart this amazing seaside retreat and make our way to Venice.
- Venice is the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region. It is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. The central square, Piazza San Marco contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile bell tower offering views of the city's red roofs.
- Our hotel is located on Venice's main island, and we will arrive by water taxi, approximately 30 minutes from our departure at Tronchetto station. **Please note your luggage will be taken from the pier side into the water taxi, and then into your hotel - all part of your package.** Soak in the sea breeze and feast your eyes on one of the world's truly unique and breathtaking cities.
- We expect a late afternoon check-in to the 5-star Splendid Venice Hotel complete with a roof top patio and bar. Once again, your tour manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room.
- Enjoy some time to freshen up for your first evening in the stunning "City of Water".
- Join us for a private rooftop cocktail reception at the hotel **(included)**. Hot & cold appetizers and wine or beer included as we enjoy this beautiful hotel, just 3-minute walk to St Marks Square and all the fabulous Italian Shops!
- After the reception, you are free to enjoy the evening as you please. Perhaps a romantic gondola ride is of interest to you? You may want to try an authentic Italian restaurant just steps away from your hotel.



Day 8 - Saturday, Oct 3 - Venice, Italy (B)

- Enjoy a delightful Venetian buffet breakfast **(included)** before we depart on our professionally guided sightseeing tour of Venice **(included)**! Your tour will include walking where 117 islands are connected by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. Highlights include a visit to St. Mark's Square where our local expert takes you on a tour of the Basilica, Doge's Palace, and legendary Bridge of Sighs.
- Our tour guide departs and leaves us for lunch (on own) in any of the many restaurants around St. Mark's Square or adjacent streets. (Please note restaurants located within the square are more expensive than ones located a 5 or 10 min walk away from the square).
- You will then have time on your own to enjoy some shopping and people watching this afternoon.
- Your evening and dinner are free to enjoy as you wish in this truly spectacular city! Enjoy your last evening in Venice!

Day 9 - Sunday, Oct 4 - Venice, Italy - Amadria Park Royal Hotel, Opatjia, Croatia (B, D)

- Enjoy your final Venetian buffet breakfast **(included)** before we check out
- We transfer back to Tronchetto terminal via water taxi, before loading our private motor coach and take us to our next neighbouring country, Croatia.
- Seaside city of Opatjia is perfectly situated as a midpoint along our route. Reopened to the "western world" in the 1990's, Croatia has quickly become a top destination for international visitors with its crystal-clear waters along the Adriatic Sea with hundreds of islands dotting its shoreline.
- Upon arrival in Opatjia, your tour manager will handle check-in and have luggage sent to your rooms. Our home for the night is the 4-star Amadria Park Royal Hotel with access to the nearby Royal Beach and has a front entrance to the vibrant main street. It combines two Austro-Hungarian villas with a Mediterranean garden-style restaurant, features floral motifs and decorative antique touches throughout with plenty of

things to enjoy.

- This evening meet your fellow friends for another group dinner **(included)**.

Day 10 – Monday, Oct 5 – Opatjia to Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Split, Croatia (B, D)

- Rise and shine in beautiful Opatjia. Enjoy an **included** breakfast this morning before checkout and our drive to Plitviče National Park.
- You will be given time for lunch **(at your expense)** before we make our way into the park on a guided tour. This series of stunning waterfalls are sure to take your breath away. Have your camera ready for some incredible photo opportunities. **Please note there is walking involved today and for those who wish to explore the area you will need to be able to walk on own without assistance.**
- After our guided tour of the National Park, we make our way to Split Croatia – our home for the night. Tonight, we will arrive at the 5-star Radisson Blu Resort and Spa. Once again, your tour manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room. Overlooking the Adriatic Sea with the ritzy islands of Hvar and Brač directly in front of us, our hotel places you in the heart of Dalmatia.
- Enjoy a delicious group dinner tonight with a glass of wine or beer with your fellow travelers **(included)**.



Day 11 – Tuesday, Oct 6 – Split, Croatia (B)

- After breakfast **(included)** meet your fellow passengers in the lobby for a quick drive into Split's Old Town where we will welcome a local guide to walk us through the historic center of the city. Marvel at the wonderfully preserved remains of Diocletian's monumental palace while navigating the narrow and winding lanes within its walls.
- After our tour, get some lunch **(at your expense)** and spend the rest of the afternoon on your own. Can we suggest some shopping for local trinkets or perhaps some people watching while enjoying a beverage along the pristine promenade?
- Board the motor coach for transfer to our hotel to watch the sun sink below the surface of the Adriatic.
- Dinner and the remainder of the evening will be on your own and at **your own expense**



Day 12 – Wednesday, Oct 7 – Split to Royal Hotel Neptun Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia (B) ***Dubrovnik City Tour & Wine Tasting Optional Excursion**

- Enjoy another delicious **breakfast (included)** before checking out of our hotel and driving south towards Dubrovnik!
- Dubrovnik is known for its stunning beauty, scenic landscapes, rich history and culture and picturesque architecture. Often called the “Pearl of the Adriatic”, Dubrovnik is famous for its incredibly well-preserved old town which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Join us today for an **optional** 4.5-hour tour of Dubrovnik **(Price TBA)**. Today's excursion includes a knowledgeable local guide taking us on a walking tour of the old city before our private coach whisks us out to the Croatian countryside. After taking in panoramic views of this beautiful port, we stop at a local winery to enjoy a tasting of local wine and



charcuterie **(included in tour cost)**. This is sure to be a highlight of Dubrovnik!

- After our excursion, we will arrive at the Royal Hotel Neptun Dubrovnik. Once again, your tour manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room. Being the highest building in Dubrovnik area, Neptun boasts spectacular views overlooking Babin Kuk, Lapad Bay and the Elaphite Islands.

Day 13 – Thursday, Oct 8 – Dubrovnik, Croatia (B, Farewell Group Dinner)

- Enjoy another delicious breakfast **(included)** this morning.
- Meet your local guide this morning for a morning tour of the fortified old town. Learn the city's origins and development through the years before touching on the sad and tragic stories of the war of the 1990s. Take a short walk along the walls and admire stunning views of the Adriatic coastline.
- Lunch and time spent this afternoon is at your leisure and your expense.
- Tonight, we gather for our Farewell Group Dinner **(Group Dinner included with wine or beer)**. We will discuss our wonderful memories together, plan our next journey and plan for our return home to Canada.
- Following your group dinner, the remainder of the evening is on your own

Day 14 – Friday, Oct 9 – Dubrovnik to Canada (B)

- Enjoy breakfast this morning **(included)** before we meet our private motor coach and make our way to the airport for our return flight home.
- For those who have purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air Package, please meet your tour manager for our transfer to the airport.
- If you've arranged airfare on your own, thank you for joining Collins Tours on this inspired adventure!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tour itineraries are only a guideline and may be modified by your tour manager. Times on tour itineraries are only estimates as various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues in all forms of transportation, emergencies, and or an "Act of God," can influence tour timing. Collins Tours is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by unforeseen events described above or unforeseen events not described above yet may cause similar outcomes. No refunds/reimbursements will be offered in the event of any such occurrences.
- Canadian citizens are required to have a valid passport that is good for at least **THREE MONTHS AFTER your last day** in Europe. Citizens of other countries should call and verify their required documentation.
- Euro's can be used for any purchases.
- Duty Free Rules allow you to claim \$800 CAD per person.
- Airline fees for any checked baggage overages or additional bags (both outbound and inbound flights) are **NOT** included in your tour package and any additional costs are your responsibility paid directly to Air Canada.
- All liquids/gels you plan to bring on board an airplane must be 3oz or less and sealed in a Ziploc bag. Once at the security checkpoint, this bag must be removed from your carryon & placed in bin for TSA screening.
- Prescription medication should be kept in original container or carried with you during travel.
- Collins Tour is not responsible for lost or stolen baggage and/or personal items.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet that may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements of any kind or travel credits, for these potential or actual additional expenses, loss of use, loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine

insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.

➤ **REMEMBER:** Your Tour Manager handles hotel check in/checkout procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation at events, hotels, ferry terminals, and overall operation of each tour. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his or their experience to the fullest. **Gratuities for your Tour Manager and driver are not included in your tour price.** Tipping is your way of saying “Thank You,” for a job well done. **Here are our guidelines on *Tipping Etiquette*:**

- Collins Tours Manager - Ranging from \$7.00 - \$9.00 per person, per day
- Bus driver - \$4.00-\$6.00 per person, per day.
- Private city tour guides - \$3.00 per person, per day

Hotel Contact Information

Hotel Continental Park Lucerne: Murbacherstrasse 4, 6002 Luzern, Switzerland, Ph: +41 41 228 90 50

Hotel Regina Palace: Corso Umberto I, 29, 28838 Stresa VB, Italy, Ph: +39 0323 936936

Hotel Montecatini Palace: Via Puccini, 20, 51016 Montecatini Terme PT, Italy, Ph: +39 0572 910862

Splendid Venice : San Marco Mercerie, 760, 30124 Venezia VE, Italy, Ph: +39 041 520 0755

Amadria Park Royal Hotel: Ul. Viktora cara Emina 10, 51410, Opatjia, Croatia Ph: +385 51 444 200

Radisson Blu Resort & Spa: Put Trstenika 19, 21000, Split, Croatia Ph: +385 21 303 030

Royal Hotel Neptun Dubrovnik: Ul. kardinala Stepinca 31d, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia Ph: +385 20 440 100

Thank you for traveling with Collins Tours!
We look forward to serving you with ALL your future travel plans

