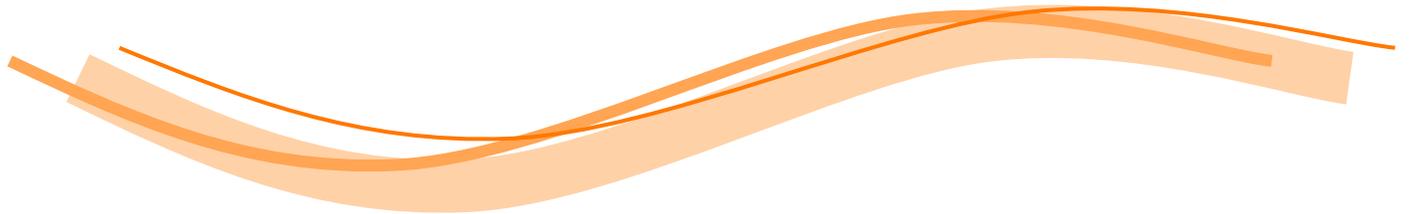




TRAFALGAR TOURS





TRAFALGAR TOURS	Since 1947 Trafalgar Tours has been a global leader in escorted tours, vacation packages and dream holidays to all your favourite destinations in Europe, Britain, USA, Canada, South America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Every year, over 55% of their passengers have travelled with Trafalgar once before and many return to travel with them again.
Why Trafalgar Tours?	<p>Here are the 15 top reasons for choosing Trafalgar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over 60 years of escorted touring experience 2. Over 200 worldwide itineraries to choose from 3. The world's most experienced Tour Directors 4. Great value - you'd pay close to 50% more if you planned the same holiday on your own 5. Hassle free holidays - you don't have to worry about car rentals or booking accommodation 6. No anxiety over hotel check-in or carrying heavy luggage 7. You'll experience all the 'must see' attractions without the long lines 8. Conveniently located hotels 9. Perfectly balanced holidays, with just the right amount of planned activities and free time 10. Most breakfasts and many sumptuous dinners are included in the price of your tour 11. Travelling alone? Take advantage of their Room Mate Matching Service 12. Modern and comfortable fleet of coaches 13. Choose from a number of optional excursions to enhance your trip 14. Great special offers 15. 98% satisfaction rating from past guests and over 50% return, year after year
History	<p>Trafalgar Tours started almost by accident and for the first 12 years of its existence was known by the name of Industrial Recreational Services. Through the 60 years following its inception, Trafalgar has become a world leader in travel by continually adapting to bring their guests better touring experiences.</p> <p>1947 - After leaving the army - where he had spent the war working in intelligence and personnel - Bill Nunn, Trafalgar's founding father sets up Industrial Recreational Services (IRS), organizing group travel and entertainment for industry.</p> <p>1949 - IRS offers trips to the London Palladium to see Harpo Marx. The cost includes return coach travel and a reserved seat at the show for 12 shillings! IRS moves offices to 139 Grand Buildings in Trafalgar Square, the landmark which 10 years later would give the company its now familiar name.</p> <p>1957 - The leisure side of the business gains popularity, Mr. Nunn and Mr. Appelby sell some of their shares to the Overseas Visitors Club in London and to Mosenthal, a South African conglomerate. It is here that the strong links between South Africa and Trafalgar were made, and which still contribute to Trafalgar's success today.</p> <p>1958 - IRS starts operating European Coach Tours like the 21-day "Young Commonwealth Special". The Overseas Visitors Club (OVC) moves to Earls Court. For South Africans, the OVC in London becomes a home away from home in Europe.</p> <p>1959 - The company changes its name to Trafalgar Tours.</p>

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	<p>1960's - At the height of the Cold War, Trafalgar organises tours to Moscow despite the difficulty in arranging visas.</p> <p>1961 - Trafalgar opens its first overseas office in the heart of Johannesburg, South Africa.</p> <p>1962 - Trafalgar charts Edinburgh Castle, a 1600 passenger ship, for a 14-day voyage from Cape Town to Southampton. The charter costs only £28, and the ship was double booked within a week. Several more charters follow over the next 3-years.</p> <p>1964 - Trafalgar expands into new areas and the original partners sell their shares to Nick Tarsh. Mr. Tarsh, who had studied law and economics at Cambridge, sells Tan Travel and disbands the overseas sales offices.</p> <p>1966 - Rhodesia declares independence and Trafalgar loses money when charter flights between London and Salisbury come to an end. Mr. Tarsh flies to South Africa and introduces the concept of newspaper tours based on travel offers to readers and the first tour is a sell out. Mr. Tarsh revives the Union Castle Line charters between Cape Town and Southampton.</p> <p>1967 - Newspaper tours are introduced to Australia. This market replaces South Africa as Trafalgar's most productive.</p> <p>1970's - The Tollman family becomes involved with Trafalgar and with their tremendous knowledge and experience in the travel industry, proceed to take the company to new heights.</p> <p>1997 - New programs offer tours to a wider variety of destinations including North America, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, South Africa and the Far East.</p> <p>2004 - Trafalgar expands its European product with luxurious new "River Cruises" and revolutionary new products like experiences.</p>
<p>Europe and Britain</p>	<p>Trafalgar boasts 5 ways to discover Europe & Britain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Class - Take pleasure in comfort on their premier tours - CostSaver - They pass savings on to you, so you enjoy a quality tour while benefiting from unbeatable value - River Cruises - Enjoy Trafalgar's River Cruises onboard intimate 4 Star luxury ships - Winter Escapes - Experience the best of Europe in winter with snow-capped mountains and Christmas lights - Breakaway for 21 to 38's - vacations designed exclusively for 21 to 38 year olds
<p>Trafalgar's Breakaway</p>	<p>Trafalgar's Breakaway is a great way to see Europe exclusively for 21 to 38's, with four exciting new tours for the coming season. Breakaway tours are well planned, but never over-organised, so your clients will enjoy the sights, tastes, sounds and experiences of Europe with people in their own age group, at a relaxed pace.</p> <p>Breakaway has a 'no early starts' policy, your clients don't have to cut their late-night explorations short; the coach will be waiting for a late night transfer. Two-night stays are common in each city, and tour planners are in the same age group.</p>

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	<p>So what's new for the coming season?</p> <p>-The 11-day Flavour of France & Spain. Paris, the wine region of Bordeaux, the famous bull-running city of Pamplona, as well as Madrid and Gaudi's playground, Barcelona will be on the list. Priced from \$1560 per person, double occupancy (land only) departures are available from 20 April to 7 September, 2008.</p> <p>-The 12-day Mediterranean Adventure visiting Spain, France and Italy. From cosmopolitan Rome, Renaissance Florence and chic Nice, to Spain's hot-blooded cities of Barcelona and Madrid, this is the adventure of a lifetime. Priced from \$1865 per person, double occupancy (land only) departures are available from 25 April to 12 September, 2008.</p> <p>-The 11-day Greek Island Hopper. Bask in the natural beauty and revel in the nightlife of the island paradises of Mykonos and Santorini, as well as exploring the culture-soaked capital, Athens. Priced from \$1935 per person, double occupancy (land only) departures are available from 1 May to 10 October, 2008.</p> <p>-Experience the must-see highlights of central Europe, with the added flavour of Turkey and Greece on the 18-day Classical Fantasy. Visit England, France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Priced from \$2980 per person, double occupancy (land only) departures are available from 7 May to 24 September, 2008.</p> <p>All Breakaway trips include transport in luxury air-conditioned coaches, accommodation in superior tourist and first class hotels in great locations at the centre of the action, buffet breakfast daily to get you off to a great start each day, some dinners, an expert Breakaway tour planner, daily sightseeing, local guides, airport transfers and much more.</p>
Tour Directors	<p>Trafalgar's Tour Directors are amongst the finest in the industry. They are experienced travellers, learned historians and culture buffs. Their expertise and years of travel make them the world's best travel professionals. They are the ideal personal guides and can be relied upon for their good humour and adventurous natures. Through their in-depth expertise, you'll discover the history and be immersed in cultures of the places you visit. Your Tour Directors can help interpret, steer you towards the best bargains and give you those pieces of information that can make your holiday truly memorable. Whether it's the best shops for watches in Switzerland or arranging a gondola ride in Venice, they can be relied upon to help. They are there to make things smoother, more interesting and ultimately more enjoyable.</p>
Fellow Travellers	<p>Trafalgar sells its tours in more than 38 countries around the world. It is therefore quite typical to find 6-10 different nationalities on any one tour. You'll forge new friendships with other Trafalgar guests from Australia, America, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore, Japan, U.K. There will be a maximum of 49 people on First Class, CostSaver and Breakaway tours throughout Europe.</p>
Accommodation	<p>A good night's sleep and a comfortable place to relax are invaluable when on holiday. All Trafalgar Hotels are carefully selected so you'll enjoy comfortable rooms and quality amenities. From arrival to departure, your Tour Director will take care of your check-in and check-out, as well as portage service for your luggage. To ensure you have complete peace of mind your travel documentation includes the contact details for each of your hotels, so friends and relatives can easily stay in touch.</p>

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	<p>Trafalgar's First Class Hotels, Europe On a Trafalgar First Class holiday in Europe and you'll stay at some of the most respected hotel chains in the world, including Accor, Hilton, Westin, Marriott, Renaissance, Sheraton and Radisson. These hotels are rated First Class, Superior First Class or Deluxe. Convenient hotel locations put you close to shops, sights, restaurants and landmarks. Most of these hotels include satellite or cable TV, mini-bar, room service, concierge, restaurant and bar, swimming pool, laundry and dry cleaning services. Trafalgar's First Class hotels include: Copthorne Tara, London - close to Harrod's; Hilton, Paris - beside the Eiffel Tower; Mercure Colosseum, Rome - near the Colosseum; Intercontinental, Budapest; Panorama hotel, Amalfi Coast, Italy</p> <p>Trafalgar's CostSaver Hotels, Europe Enjoy a stay at one of Trafalgar's CostSaver hotels and you'll be guaranteed a stay at a Superior Tourist Class or First Class hotel. In 2007, Trafalgar enhanced its range of CostSaver hotels to include more First Class and Moderate First Class hotels. Your room will have a private bathroom or shower and many will also have satellite TV.</p>
<p>Dining</p>	<p>Eating is one of the best parts of any holiday and Trafalgar makes sure that no matter which part of the world you're travelling to, your taste buds get the full culinary experience.</p> <p>Trafalgar's First Class, Europe While on tour in Europe you'll be treated to continental style buffet breakfasts with fruit juice, cold meats and cheese, cereals, bread rolls, preserves and tea or coffee. When making your way through the English or Irish countryside enjoy cooked breakfasts of bacon, sausage, egg, tomatoes, mushrooms and more. On some evenings you'll enjoy 3-course meals specially prepared by your hotel's Chef - all included in the tour price.</p> <p>Trafalgar's First Class, Exclusive Dinner Highlights If you are our guest on a tour for longer than a week, you'll be treated to specialty dinners at selected restaurants, featuring delicious regional cuisine. Enjoy a traditional 'roast beef and Yorkshire pud' in an English pub, sample a true Scandinavian smorgasbord or be served mouth-watering pasta dishes in an Italian trattoria. These exclusive Dinner Highlights are more than meals, they are unforgettable experiences.</p> <p>Trafalgar's CostSaver, Europe When travelling on a CostSaver tour through Europe, you will enjoy a cooked English breakfast in the UK & Ireland and a cold buffet breakfast in London and Europe. 50% of evening meals are also included. Included dinners are set 3-course menus planned by your hotel's Chef to reflect a taste of Europe.</p>
<p>Travel Show Prize: "Milan and Italian Treasures"</p>	<p>A ten day tour of Northern Italy from \$1699 (land only) April 17 to October 23</p> <p>"Europe at Leisure" tour type</p> <p>Day 1- Depart Canada Overnight flight to Milan.</p> <p>Day 2 - Arrive Milan You are met at Milan's Malpensa airport and transferred to your hotel. Later, enjoy a walking tour of the city centre including the gothic Duomo, the 19th century Galleria and "La Scala" Opera house. This evening enjoy a Welcome Drink with Tour Director and fellow travellers. (Welcome Drink) Hotel: Crowne Plaza</p>

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**Day 3 Milan – Italian Lake District – Lake Garda**

Today head to the Italian Lakes. First stop is at Stresa, where you can see the idyllic Borromean Islands. Time to relax or take a boat trip before entering the Italian speaking region of Switzerland on a visit to Lugano. Time to shop for Swiss chocolates and watches. Later, back in Italy enjoy a scenic drive around Lake Como to Como itself. At Bergamo, join the 'autostrada' to Lake Garda for six nights. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner) Hotel: Villa Maria (6 nights)

Day 4 - Lake Garda – Vicenza – Bassano del Grappa

Off to the ancient Roman town of Vicenza. Here visit the Piazza dei Signori and the Corso Andrea Palladio. Next, via Castelfranco Veneto to Bassano del Grappa, famous for its white brandy, and covered bridge over the Brenta River, and Marostica, the beautiful 14th century town renowned for its historic chess game played in the main piazza. Finally make your way back to Lake Garda. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day 5 - Lake Garda – Venice Excursion

Your Tour Director will show you one of the Hidden Treasures of magical Venice on your excursion today. On your arrival a private motor launch will take you along the canals past Palladian palazzos and churches, to St. Mark's Square. Here you'll see St. Mark's Basilica and Doges' Palace. Then after witnessing a demonstration of Murano glass-blowing, enjoy time on your own. Why not venture out to the lagoon and enjoy a delicious seafood lunch? Later, a gondola ride would be hard to resist! (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day 6 - Lake Garda at leisure

After breakfast enjoy a full day at leisure to perhaps stroll along the lakeside, take an excursion to nearby Mantova visiting the magnificent Palazzo Ducale or simply relax. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day 7 - Lake Garda – Sirmione & Verona Excursion

Today experience the beauty of Lake Garda on an included excursion along its shores to Sirmione. Here you can admire the imposing Scaligers' castle before continuing to romantic Verona, for a walking tour with a local guide of the city, home of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. You will see the Roman arena and Juliet's balcony. Then free time to shop, or simply "do as the locals do" and sit in one of the pavement cafés on the Piazza Bra. You return to Lake Garda for the night. (Buffet Breakfast)

Day 8 - Lake Garda at leisure

Another full day at leisure in this serene area. Perhaps take a boat trip across the lake. Or join a full day excursion into the Dolomite Mountains where you can ride a cable car up one of the mountain peaks for spectacular alpine views. Alternatively, you may wish to relax in these peaceful surroundings! Whatever you decide, your Tour Director can advise you on how to make the most of your stay! Dine at your hotel this evening. (Buffet Breakfast / Dinner)

Day 9 - Lake Garda – Bergamo – Milan

After breakfast, visit the attractive town of Bergamo. Here ascend to the upper traffic-free town by funicular to see the town's finest buildings. Then walk to the Piazza del Duomo to admire the 15th and 16th century buildings, with time for a cappuccino before returning to Milan. This evening join your Tour Director and fellow passengers for a Farewell Dinner in a local restaurant. (Buffet Breakfast / Farewell Dinner) Hotel: Quark

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Day 10 - Milan - Canada

After breakfast time to bid farewell to your new-found friends as you transfer back to Milan Malpensa airport for your return flight to Canada. (Buffet Breakfast)

Included Sightseeing Highlights

Milan: Orientation of Italy's financial and fashion capital, including the Duomo, Galleria and "La Scala".

Stresa: See the Borromean Islands

Lugano: Visit the beautiful Swiss resort.

Vicenza: Visit the Piazza dei Signori and the Corso Andrea Palladio.

Bassano del Grappa: Visit this town famous for its white brandy and covered bridge.

Marostica: Visit the lovely 14th century town.

Venice: Canal cruise by private launch. See St. Mark's Square, the Byzantine Basilica, Doges' Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. Visit a traditional glass-blowing factory.

Lake Garda: Excursion along its sparkling shores.

Sirmione: See the imposing Scaligers' Castle.

Verona: See Juliet's balcony and the Roman arena.

Bergamo: Visit this attractive town and admire the 15th and 16th century buildings at the Piazza del Duomo.

Scenic drives Along the shores of Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Garda.

Dining Highlights

Welcome Drink with your Tour Director in Milan
8 Buffet breakfasts
4 three-course dinners
Farewell Dinner with wine in a local restaurant in Milan
13 meals in total

Optional Excursions

- LAKE GARDA. Bolzano and the Dolomite Mountains

This excursion will take you along the beautiful Adige valley northward to the bilingual town of Bolzano, capital of southern part of the Tyrol. Here you will have time to shop in the elegant arcaded streets. Later, take a cable car to the top of the Renon and then continue on a ride on the century old "Tramvai" a unique form of communication for all the villages in this area. Enjoy incredible panoramas from this famous mountain plateau. Finally a spectacular drive past hills and mountains terraced with vineyards brings you back to the hotel on Lake Garda. 48 (€)

- LAKE GARDA. Excursion to Mantua and the Palazzo Ducale

Drive to medieval Mantua – a charming city bordered on three sides by lakes and once

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the home and playground to the rich and famous. Visit the Palazzo Ducale, the vast home of the Gonzaga family, where you can admire works by Rubens, Pisanello and Mantegna. See the cage where wrongdoers were exhibited on the Torre Della Gabbia and see the Basilica di San Andrea – a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, housing a relic of Christ's blood! 41 (€)

- LAKE GARDA. Mantua by night with Dinner

Drive to medieval Mantua – a charming city bordered on three sides by lakes and once the home and playground to the rich and famous. See the Palazzo Ducale, the vast home of the Gonzaga family, and the Basilica di San Andrea – a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, housing a relic of Christ's blood! Afterwards enjoy dinner in a typical local restaurant, with wines included. (without dinner, 29 euros) 50 (€)

- LAKE GARDA. Tour of the Lake

This is by far the best way to appreciate the largest of the Italian Lakes! Drive along its scenic shore and stop for snapshots of many of the pretty resorts which have made this lake so internationally renowned. Admire the lush vegetation and marvel at the limpid blue waters as you cross the lake, visiting several picturesque and historical towns around the lake. 41 (€)

- LAKE MAGGIORE. Borromean Islands - Isola Bella Palace Tour

A private launch takes you to the world-renowned islands of Lake Maggiore. See the Isola Madre, the Isola dei Pescatori, and on the Isola Bella visit the palace of the Borromean princes. 34 (€)

- MILAN. Milan By Night & Dinner

Drive into the heart of the city and walk to the Piazza del Duomo, and see the gothic Cathedral illuminated and join the Milanese in an evening stroll. Then enjoy a delicious dinner including wine in one of the city's most elegant restaurants. 54 (€)

- MILAN. The 'Certosa' of Pavia

An excursion, which takes you to visit the monument, considered to be the pinnacle of artistic expression in Lombardy and one of Italy's greatest landmarks, the Carthusian Monastery of Pavia. Here you will visit the tomb of the Duke of Milan, the ivory sacristy, the fourteenth century cloisters and the cells where the Carthusian monks used to live their lives in total seclusion. 28 (€)

- MILAN. Treasures of Milan

With a local city guide, visit some of this bustling city's most famous sights. First enter the impressive Castello Sforza – today one of the country's most important museums, where you see the Pieta by Michelangelo among other great works. Then continue to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to admire Leonardo da Vinci's most famous painting, 'The Last Supper'. When the last supper is not available, there will be a visit to the La Scala opera house and museum. 43 (€)

- VENICE. Gondola Serenade

An ideal introduction to this unique and magical city. Enjoy a romantic gondola journey along canals full of character and colour, while musicians and singers entertain. See the Grand Canal with its magnificent and elegant palaces, witnesses of the past splendours of the 'Serenissima'. 32 (€)

- VENICE. Lagoon Cruise with Lunch or Dinner

A half day off the beaten track! You are taken by private boat to the nearby islands in

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	<p>the lagoon of Venice. See the island of Murano and the Hermitage of San Francesco del Deserto. Lunch or dinner is taken at the island of the 'fisherman' - Burano - a photographer's paradise. Drinks are also included. 65 (€)</p> <p>- VENICE. Venetian Glories Accompanied by a local expert you are taken into the magnificent Doges' Palace – home to the rulers of the Venetian republic for hundreds of years. You are shown the main highlights of the palace and its elegant courtyards, before entering the Byzantine Basilica of St. Mark the Evangelist, patron saint of the city of Venice. Admire the stunning golden mosaics and wonderful Byzantine architecture. 34 (€)</p>
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Special Offers	<p>Fly to Europe from only \$399 return with Air France when you book your Trafalgar land & air packaged holiday before March 27, 2008.</p> <p>Valid for new bookings made by March 27, 2008 for departures March 23 - June 18. Final payment for flights must be received within 7 days of booking and by March 27. Air taxes extra. Rates based on availability, space is limited and offer is subject to change without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Rate above based on roundtrip flights to London from Toronto, taxes \$197 - \$399 extra and includes fuel surcharge. Montreal available at an additional charge,</p>
Special Tuesdays	<p>Tuesdays are special at Trafalgar Tours - special because every 3rd Tuesday, Trafalgar will feature two specially-priced tours available for you to book for a limited time. You may receive a special price or a value-added offer, but it's only applicable for a short time, so you will need to move quickly. Trafalgar Tuesdays will be changed every 3 weeks, so make sure you keep coming back to check the list to see what's new! Currently on offer: \$100 off per person on Trafalgar's air inclusive Best of Spain</p>
Kids Discount	<p>Share your holiday memories with your family and take advantage of a 10% discount on the land-only portion of your tour. Young travellers must be under the age of 18 years old on the tour departure date, and be accompanied by an adult. On all escorted tours, children under 5 years old are not accepted.</p>
Groups Discounts	<p>If a group of 5 - 8 people travel together a discount of 5% per person applies to the land-only portion of your tour. So it pays to get together with your family and friends! Save even more for 9 or more - If you have a group of 9 or more people travelling together on the same scheduled tour, then you automatically qualify for more savings. Your savings will be determined by the number of people travelling. Ask your travel agent for details.</p>
Early Payment Discount	<p>The earlier you pay, the more you save. If you book and pay in full you'll save up to 10% off the land-only portion of your trip. This Early Payment Saving option varies as shown below - pay between:</p> <p>4-6 months SAVE 2.5% 7-9 months SAVE 5% 10-12 months SAVE 7.5% 1 year or more SAVE 10%</p>
Save on a 2nd Tour	<p>Book two Trafalgar holidays, each 8 days or longer, for a reduction of 5% off the land portion of the tour with the shortest duration. Take three tours and save on two; ask your travel professional for suggestions on your perfect tour combination</p>
Tipping	<p>Tips are customarily given to your Tour Director, Driver and Local Guides at your discretion. The recommended amounts are: Tour Directors \$4 per day, Drivers \$2.50 per day and Local Guides \$1 per day.</p>
How to Book	<p>To book your Trafalgar vacation, simply visit your local travel agent. Your travel agent will answer your questions and assist you with choosing the perfect Trafalgar</p>

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	<p>experience. There is a travel agent finder on their website at: http://www.trafalgar.com/CAN/How_To_Book</p>
<p>Oberammergau 2010</p>	<p>THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2010 Once every ten years, a tiny, picturesque village in the heart of the Bavarian Alps re-enacts an event which draws people of every religious denomination from four corners of the globe to witness one of the most poignant and moving stories ever told. The play depicts the tragic and moving chronicle of Christ's final passion. Its history stems from 1632 when Oberammergau was gripped by a deadly plague which killed almost half of the town's population. In a final, desperate act of faith, the village elders pledged that if the village was spared, it would re-enact the passion of Christ every 10 years - for all eternity. Miraculously the village was spared and the villagers planned the very first Passion Play in 1634.</p> <p>Tradition dictates that the play's cast of thousands is drawn from all walks of life from within the village. The coveted role of Christ could be the village postman, butcher or school teacher. The cast spend almost two years painstakingly rehearsing every detail of the story for a once only performance of a lifetime.</p> <p>The next Passion Play will take place in 2010 and the event is already attracting worshippers from around the globe. Demand is sure to be overwhelming and inevitably tickets will be in short supply. However, you can rely on Trafalgar to obtain advance tickets, because as the world's favourite touring company, we have specially reserved first class tickets for the 2010 Passion Play and obtained hotel accommodation in the beautiful surrounding area. Trafalgar's unbeatable choice of tours is designed to reveal the very best of Europe's fine traditions in a range of balanced itineraries including a visit to Oberammergau and the Passion Play.</p> <p>Tours for 2010 and tour prices have not been confirmed. Provide your name and email address in the form on their website and they will email you information on their Oberammergau 2010 tours as soon as they are available.</p>
<p>Sustainable Travel</p>	<p>Protecting the environment and the people and places their tours visit is a top priority for Trafalgar. They want to help ensure these remain for future generations to enjoy and are committed to ensuring they minimize the environmental impact of their operations around the world.</p> <p>Every time we travel, whether by car, train, plane or coach, we are burning fossil fuels and contributing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. And while there are many ways to travel while on holiday, they are pleased to advise that by choosing a Trafalgar escorted tour, you are opting for one of the most environmentally friendly ways to go. A grid on their website shows you the amount of carbon dioxide emitted per km for a passenger traveling on various forms of transport which clearly shows coach transport as emitting significantly less carbon dioxide than other forms of transport. With carbon dioxide being one of the main causes of global warming, it's good to know that buying an escorted tour holiday is a better way to travel.</p> <p>With constant improvements in technology newer engines offer greater fuel efficiency while also emitting less pollutants which is why Trafalgar is continually upgrading its motor coach fleet and are proud to have one of the best in Europe.</p> <p>Trafalgar are reducing the carbon footprints and environmental impact of their offices by introducing recycling, energy reduction and waste minimisation projects as well as supporting local community projects where employees live and work. Staff are proud to be involved in making a difference and starting in 2008 Trafalgar will be encouraging staff to spend two working days a year volunteering for charitable projects.</p>

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For more information on Trafalgar Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pick up a brochure at your local travel agent - Visit their website at www.trafalgar.com - See them in person at the Toronto Travel & Leisure Show in Toronto April 11 to 13, 2008 at the International Centre in booth # 105 www.travelandleisureshow.com
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EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS

ITALY	<p>Personal: Rome, Turin, Venice, Florence, Naples, Tuscany, Sardinia, Italian Lakes, Amalfi Coast, Capri, Skiing in the Italian Alps</p> <p>The land of La Dolce Vita and the Eternal City Flavours, colours, smells, human warmth and the melodious language of romance - In short, Italy offers visitors a sumptuous feast for the senses. Italy retains an exceptional legacy from peoples who have occupied it throughout the course of its history. Over the centuries, it has seen great civilizations that still permeate Europe. Rome, Florence and Venice are particularly marked by this rich cultural heritage.</p> <p>Rome “When in Rome, do as the Romans do” – delve into the city’s many formidable museums and basilicas, tantalize your taste buds with the unparalleled flavour of Italy and surround yourself with the pervading sense of history that is the Eternal City. The range of landmarks within the bounds of the city is staggering: there is the grand Colosseum and lavish Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel and so much more. “Roma” is a magnificent combination of old and new, and positively hums with lively markets, cheery cafés and of course, traffic. Rome is testament to the momentous Italian past - whichever way you look, Rome will mesmerize, amuse and enlighten... and have you planning your next visit before you’ve even left. The Vatican City - The Vatican city is not only a truly spiritual place but is impressive for its grandeur, art and of course St Peters – the biggest church in the World. Also not to be missed is the Sistine Chapel, whose ceiling is home to Michelangelo’s mural masterpiece. Colosseum - Known to the Ancient Romans as the “Flavian Amphitheatre” this symbol of the Roman Empire was host to 450 years of gladiators, lion feedings and “games”. It is a truly impressive sight. Trevi Fountain - A beautiful rococo design, the Trevi Fountain is the place to stir romance. Legend has it by throwing a coin over your shoulder, into the fountain, you will return to Rome. Pantheon - Nearly 1900 years after its construction this 2nd century AD pagan temple to the gods is remarkably still intact. Converted to a church in 608AD, Marcus Agrippa’s extraordinary dome is the largest masonry vault ever built. Spanish Steps – Nicknamed Rome’s living room, the Spanish Steps are the perfect place to sit and people watch. Both tourists and locals can be seen sitting and relaxing on the steps that overlook the piazza.</p> <p>Florence What is it about Florence that gets pulses racing? Is it the feeling of sheer enchantment when you first see the mighty Duomo dominating the skyline, or perhaps knowing that you are surrounded by Renaissance artworks of the great masters? The clout of the Medici family is everywhere in the city’s features, extending from art to architecture to</p>
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	<p>culture. It is this distant, celebrated past that has made modern-day Florence the thriving tourist centre that it is. With the opportunity to wine and dine in true Florentine style, visit historically colossal sights, gaze at artistic perfection and watch the sun set over the Arno, Florence is simply unrivalled.</p> <p>The Academy (Galleria dell' Accademia) - One of the best known art museums in Florence, The Academy is home to sculptures by Michelangelo, including the "David", "The four prisoners" and the "Pieta of Palestina".</p> <p>Duomo - This Italian Gothic cathedral was finished around 1367 and was originally completely covered with coloured marbles. The dome of the cathedral is an impressive sight on the Florentine skyline.</p> <p>Piazza della Signoria - Florence's best piazza, this busy square is a place to sip coffee and take photo's of the Fountain of Neptune.</p> <p>Palazzo Vecchio - This grand palace was home to Florence's most famous rulers - the Medici Family. The interior is filled with its treasures of Florentine art and history.</p> <p>Santa Croce Church - Built in the 14th century and started by St. Francis of Assisi, the church today entombs Florence's most famous historical figures including Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini and a memorial to Dante. Outside you'll find numerous street vendors.</p> <p>Venice Venice is a dazzling blend of waterways, bridges, land and glorious architecture. For anyone in search of the past, you'll undoubtedly come across the astounding collection of Renaissance paintings, frescoes, mosaics and sculptures embellishing the interiors of basilicas and churches. And if you can't get there by foot, you'll get there by water. Bustling St. Mark's Square attracts flocks of tourists and pigeons alike, the intricacies of the Doges' Palace are magical... This age-old floating city is made from the kind of stuff fairy-tales are. Indeed, no amount of reading or flipping through picture books will prepare you for its breathtaking beauty.</p> <p>St Mark's Basilica - One of the most spectacular churches in the world the Basilica is adorned with Byzantine domes and gilded mosaics. Built in honour of St. Mark the city's patron saint, after his bones were kidnapped from Egypt in the 9th Century.</p> <p>St Mark's Square - Filled with café's, restaurants, pigeons and music - it's no wonder Napoleon dubbed this central gathering place as the 'finest drawing room in Europe'.</p> <p>Palazzo Ducale - The Palace of the Doges housed Venice's rulers for more than six centuries. It connects to the adjacent Prigioni Nuove ("New Prisons") via the Bridge of Sighs made famous by Lord Byron.</p> <p>Grand Canale - Venice is connected by 150-canals and 400-bridges. The Grand Canale is the most beautiful "street" in Venice and flows between opulent architecture - a gondola ride is a must do in this unique city.</p>
<p>SPAIN</p>	<p>Personal: Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Andalucia, Pyrenees, Costa Brava, Costa Dorada, Costa Blanca, Costa Del Sol; Paradors; Majorca, Ibiza, Menorca</p> <p>Spain is widely known for Flamenco music and dance, bullfights, fantastic beaches and endless sunshine. It is, and has been for thousands of years, one of the cultural centres of Europe with beautiful cities and towns offering a unique blend of historic monuments with futuristic architecture. Its many regions are all different from one another; geographically, climatically and even in personality. It truly is a fascinating country to get to know and experience first-hand.</p> <p>With over 52 million visitors each year, Spain is one of the most visited countries on Earth. The Costa del Sol and Balearic and Canary islands have seen their tourist</p>

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industries develop under the sign of the two most important divinities of the modern traveller: the sun and the sea. Further inland, the country varies according to the unique traits of each of its provinces: each community distinguished by its own specific character, and sometimes its own language.

Towering 650m over the central highlands of Spain, **Madrid** is the country's capital city. With a population of 3 million inhabitants, Madrid is the political, economic and cultural hub of the country. Though it only has a few major monuments, it features more than 50 museums. The most renowned is the Museo del Prado, which dates from 1819 and is one of the most beautiful museums in all of Europe.

Barcelona was built around its port on the Mediterranean Sea. The long-standing capital of the autonomous community of Catalonia, this city of 1.5 million inhabitants has always had its sights turned north towards Europe, making for a very unique identity, compared to the nation's other cities. The emblem of Barcelona lies in the northern part of the city, in the Eixample district: the Sagrada Familia basilica. Its construction was undertaken in 1884 and it remains unfinished. This stunning testament to the genius of its architect, Gaudí, is topped with spindle-shaped towers and bears witness to its creator's outlandish taste for symbolism and the exuberant shapes of nature.

Hanging from the southern tip of Europe and facing Africa, **Andalusia** cultivates a strong personality inherited through centuries of travels, conquests and brilliant civilisations. Located at the feet of the Sierra Morena and Sierra Nevada mountain chains, whose highest summits shine under their perpetual snow, the region's palaces, mosques and gardens evoke the golden age of the Moor Kingdoms. The riches may have passed, but the cultural and natural landscape remains the same: flamenco, bull-fighting, unbridled ferias, arid mountains dotted with small villages and the beaches of the Costa del Sol. The sunny Andalusian coastline follows the Mediterranean Sea over some 300km, from Gibraltar to Almería, at the foothills of the Sierras. A veritable tourist Mecca since the 1970s, the Costa del Sol's mild winters and festive summer nights more than make up for its rather stony beaches.

The political and cultural capital of Andalusia, **Seville** is an energetic little town that loves to celebrate its corridas and annual feria. During Holy Week, masked penitents lead a procession through the city's streets. Central to the city is its Gothic cathedral, third largest in Europe and built during the 15th century on the former site of an Almohad mosque. The cathedral features a funerary monument which is rumoured to contain the ashes of Christopher Columbus, though the fact is disputed by the cathedral of Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic, which also claims to hold the explorer's final remains.

A historical and cultural anachronism, **Gibraltar** is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom whose population is largely catholic and Spanish-speaking. Covering a mere 6km², its territory, which is only attached to Spain by a long spit of sand, lies behind the famous rock which guards the strait that separates Africa from Europe. Slightly sloping towards the Atlantic Ocean, the Rock of Gibraltar constitutes a 425m vertical wall on its Mediterranean side. Visitors can learn more about the area at the Gibraltar Museum. Home to a number of more or less wild monkeys, the rock, which can only be reached by cable-car, offers an exceptional view of the strait and Morocco.

Four of the 16 **Balearic Islands** are inhabited. The largest and most visited, Majorca (3,604km²), is also the one whose landscape is the most varied. Its capital, Palma, is

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	<p>located on the southern coast of the island and is surrounded by most of the major beach resorts. Minorca (680km²) is five times smaller than Majorca and much less frequented by travellers. The most easterly of the Balearics, it is a sparsely wooded low-lying island surrounded by craggy cliffs and magnificent coves. The island's capital, Mahón, is located on the eastern coast, above a large gulf. Legend has it that the city's name was the inspiration for the French word mayonnaise, which started appearing on French tables after France's 1756 conquest of Minorca. The third largest Balearic Island is the "White Island" of Ibiza (572km²). Its uneven terrain and jagged coasts hide a myriad of isolated creeks. Discovered by hippies and artists during the 1960s, it is a major tourist destination which has nonetheless managed to retain its unique character. The contrasts are striking between the urbanizations that surround its beautiful teeming beaches, and the central inland area, where stepped fields abound in poppies in springtime and the farms and fortified villages of Arab inspiration recall Andalusia.</p>
<p>GREECE</p>	<p>Personal: Athens, Thessaloniki, Corfu, Kefalonia, Zante, Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, Kos, Thassos, Hydra, Spetse, Poros, Aegina, Simi</p> <p>1,000 Places to see before you die: Crete; Mykonos; Delos; Santorini; Patmos; Rhodes; Symi; The Acropolis; Athens national archaeology museum; Delphi; Epidaurus; Monemvassia; Mount Athos; Hydra; Meteora monasteries Read: James Chatto: The Greek for Love – A Memoir of Corfu</p> <p>The Best Ancient Sites</p> <p>The Acropolis (Athens): No matter how many photographs you've seen, nothing can prepare you for watching the light turn the marble of the buildings, still standing after thousands of years, from honey to rose to deep red to stark white. If the crowds get you down, remember how crowded the Acropolis was during religious festivals in antiquity.</p> <p>Nemea (Peloponnese): This gem of a site has it all: a beautifully restored stadium, a handsome museum, and picnic tables with a view of the romantic Doric temple with its three long-standing columns -- and several newly restored and re-erected ones. If you're lucky, you may see Nemea's archaeologists at work lovingly reconstructing and re-erecting more columns from the temple's north facade in their ambitious restoration project.</p> <p>Olympia (Peloponnese) & Delphi (Central Greece): Try to visit both Olympia, where the Olympic Games began, and Delphi, home of the Delphic Oracle. That's the only way you'll be able to decide whether you think Olympia, with its massive temples and shady groves of trees, or Delphi, perched on mountain slopes overlooking olive trees and the sea, is the most beautiful ancient site in Greece.</p> <p>Palace of Knossos (Crete): A seemingly unending maze of rooms and levels and stairways and corridors and frescoed walls - the Minoan Palace of Knossos. It can be packed at peak hours, but it still exerts its power if you enter into the spirit of the labyrinth, where King Minos ruled over the richest and most powerful of Minoan cities and, according to legend, his daughter Ariadne helped Theseus kill the Minotaur and escape.</p> <p>Delos (Cyclades): This tiny isle just 3.2km offshore of Mykonos, was considered by the ancient Greeks to be both the geographical and spiritual center of the Cyclades; many</p>

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considered this the holiest sanctuary in all Greece. The extensive remains here testify to the island's former splendor. From Mount Kinthos (really just a hill, but the island's highest point), you can see many of the Cyclades most days and the whole archipelago on a very clear day. The 3 hours allotted by excursion boats from Mykonos or Tinos are hardly sufficient to explore this vast archaeological treasure.

Vergina (Northern Greece): In the brilliantly designed museum here, you can peek into what may have been the tomb of Alexander the Great's father, Philip of Macedon; nearby there are more than 300 burial mounds that stretch for miles across the Macedonian plain.

Messene (Peloponnese): This sprawling 4th century B.C. site has the best-preserved ancient fortification walls in Greece, an enormous Sanctuary of Asklepios and a stadium - and views of almost all Messene and Laconia from the summit of Mount Ithomi.

The Best Islands

Hydra (Saronic Gulf Islands): Old-timers keep waiting for Hydra, with its handsome stone mansions overlooking a picture-postcard harbor, to be "spoiled." After all, even before Mykonos and Santorini, Hydra was one of the first Greek islands to be "discovered." So far, so good: donkeys still outnumber motorcycles, and the day-trippers who blitz the appealing harborside shops leave at twilight. That means you can almost always find the table you want at one of Hydra's pleasant small restaurants.

Crete: Whether for its rugged mountains or its countless beaches, its ancient remains or its ultramodern hotels, its layered history or its intense people, Crete cannot be denied. It is not just a distinctive Greek island -- it is a world unto itself.

Santorini (Cyclades): This is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular islands in the world. The streets of Fira and Ia are carved into the face of a high cliff, overlooking the circular caldera left by an ancient volcanic eruption and now filled with the deep blue waters of the Aegean. The site of Akrotiri offers a unique glimpse into life in a Minoan city, frozen in time by the eruption 3,600 years ago. Add to this the Fira nightlife scene, and you'll see why this is one of the most popular (and overcrowded) summer vacation spots in the Aegean.

Siros (Cyclades): This tiny island has it all: a vivacious, cosmopolitan capital town; thriving beach resorts; and a starkly beautiful region of farming communities, archaeological remains, and remote beaches to the north. Siros is also one of the centers of *rembetika*, a form of Greek traditional music with roots in Asia Minor; the *Fragosiriani*, a classic known throughout Greece, was composed by the Siriot Markos Vamvakaris, and you're sure to hear its simple and infectious rhythms many times during your stay here.

Rhodes (Dodecanese): The island of Rhodes has everything a visitor could want - dazzling ancient and medieval ruins, great food, spectacular beaches, and the hottest nightlife outside of Athens - the one drawback being that everyone knows it.

Skyros (Sporades): Winding roads and remote beaches, one main town and a few minor villages, some ancient legends and 20th-century tales: Skyros's charms remain

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perhaps the most elusive of the four Northern Sporades. But though the island remains a bit difficult to access and still not overstocked with touristy amenities, Skyros also offers both a living local culture and some natural wildness.

Corfu (Ionian Islands): Lush vegetation, some still undeveloped interior and unspoiled coast, ancient sites and a 19th-century presence, a dash of Italy and a dose of the cosmopolitan, Corfu is a Greek island like no other. Tourism may be rampant, but Corfu's attractions have survived worse.

Hios (Northeastern Aegean): You'd think that an island with such gorgeous beaches, exquisite medieval towns, and remarkable scenery wouldn't remain a secret for long. Despite the qualities that attract a small group of devotees year after year, Hios remains surprisingly quiet. If you like the idea of getting away from the tour buses, being alone on a beach to rival any in the Cyclades, and exploring towns that preserve the contours of medieval life, Hios is for you. Another benefit: the local hospitality hasn't worn thin here, as it has on many of the more heavily toured islands.

Sifnos (Cyclades): Sifnos is a green island of ravines, mountaintops, and pristine beaches. Despite its small size (a hardy walker can explore the entire island on foot), Sifnos has numerous attractive small towns which can be used as bases for your explorations. Apollonia, in the central hills, offers elegant small-town civility, with the added benefit of being the hub of an excellent public transportation system. Kastro, on its seaside rock, is the medieval locus of the island, while Platis Yialos is a quiet beach resort. Don't visit in August, when the island is mobbed with vacationing Athenians.

Athens: Birthplace of democracy, capital of Greece, Megalopolis...
The cradle of western civilization, Athens is a bustling city that attracts visitors with, among other things, its legendary classical temples; its museums displaying timeless works of art; the flower-filled balconies and Mediterranean streets of the Plaka district; and its crowded, lively taverns.

The political, economic and cultural heart of Greece, Athens is located in the southern region of the country. Founded deep in a valley, 7 km (4 mi) from the port of Piraeus, the city developed around the omnipresent hill of Acropolis.

The modern city of Athens surrounds the Acropolis. On a rocky outcrop stands the magnificent Ionic temple of Athena Nike, while the Parthenon prominently occupies the highest part of the plateau. The incarnation of Greek genius, the largest ancient Doric temple was dedicated to Athena Parthenos ("virgin") and built by architects Ictinos and Callicrates between 447 and 438 BC. On the north side, on the very site where the goddess defied Poseidon in their conflict over ownership of the city, is the Erechtheion, of Ionic style, famous for its portico of the Caryatids.

Of the several theatres of Ancient Athens, the Dionysus still remains. Located south of the Acropolis, this is where the words of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes once resounded. To the west, the restored Theatre of Herodes Atticus (a Roman theatre from the year 161) still presents concerts and shows. East of the Plaka, near the National Garden, visitors can admire the 15 remaining columns of the Olympeion, a monumental temple dedicated to Zeus.

The Plaka district, built under Turkish occupation, is the most popular and lively in Athens. Along its sinewy streets, Byzantine churches, taverns, bistro terraces, small, white houses and souvenir shops stand side by side. Farther north, the Plaka leads to

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	<p>Syntagma Square, the largest in the capital.</p> <p>If you can only visit one museum during your trip to Athens, it should be the National Archaeological Museum, founded in 1874. Located in the northern part of town in a beautiful neoclassical building, it showcases impressive collections of marble, bronze and ceramic works, as well as treasures of all kinds. North of the National Garden are the Benaki Museum, the Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art and, farther east, the Byzantine Museum, whose collection of icons is one of the most stunning in the world.</p> <p>In Greece, the aperitif is taken around 8 or 9 p.m., so in Athens, it is not rare to see people walking into restaurants around 10 p.m. Highly convivial, its regional cuisine is rich in products of the land. Elegant, expensive restaurants are found in the city's western section, towards Kifissia, while in the Plaka, taverns provide both cuisine and folklore. Everywhere in Athens, you will find many cafés that still have an old-fashioned look, as well as bars and nightclubs that attract all types of individuals: young and old, artists and business people. Folklore-lovers shouldn't miss the Philopappos Theatre, between May and September. Another must-see from June to September is the Athens festival.</p> <p>Canadian travelers' passports should be valid for at least six months upon entering Greece.</p> <p>Traveler's cheques: In Canadian or Euro funds are well recognized and recommended.</p> <p>Credit / Debit Cards: All major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and shops; ATM machines are available in banks on the mainland as well as on the islands.</p> <p>Customs: It is permitted to bring into the country duty-free: all used personal belongings, foodstuffs and beverages up to 10 kilos; 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco; and 1 litre of alcoholic beverage or 2 litres of wine; gift articles up to total value of approx. 150 euros.</p> <p>Tipping: A service charge of 13% is included on the bill in restaurants. You can leave an additional 5 – 10% if you are satisfied; Taxis and hotels 1 to 2 euros.</p> <p>Currency: 1 Euro = \$1.58 CDN (22 March 2008)</p> <p>Languages: Greek is the official language of Greece. English and French are widely spoken.</p> <p>Festivals:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Hellenic Festival</td> <td>Mid June to mid September</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Epidaurus</td> <td>July to August (every weekend)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippi & Thassos</td> <td>July to August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thessaloniki: Dimitria</td> <td>October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wine Festivals</td> <td>During harvest</td> </tr> </table> <p>Corfu: Part of Ionian Islands off NW Greece, 32km off coast, 558 km from Athens June or Sept best months; Corfu Town: Archaeological Museum; Old Fort (Sound and Light); Mandraki Harbour; Museum of Asian Art; Town Hall 1633 Venetian Loggia Paleokastritsa: diving, restaurants, great coast scenery, Angelokastro medieval castle</p>	Hellenic Festival	Mid June to mid September	Epidaurus	July to August (every weekend)	Philippi & Thassos	July to August	Thessaloniki: Dimitria	October	Wine Festivals	During harvest
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UK	<p>Currency: one pound = \$2.03 CDN (22 March 2008)</p> <p>Weather: Summer temps around 20 C, rain any time;</p> <p>Great British Heritage Pass: 7 days \$78 CDN free access to 600 castles, stately homes and gardens in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, save over 40% on admission fees, Properties include Kensington Palace, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Warwick Castle and Palace of Holyrood house.</p> <p>"This sceptered isle, this earth of majesty, this other Eden, demi-paradise" – Richard II "Oh to be in England now that April's there!" – Robert Browning</p>										

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2012 Olympics are already generating a buzz of excitement in the UK

Rail: For frequent train journeys, a Britrail Flexipass allows travel for up to 15 days in two months; a Classic Pass allows travel on a certain number of consecutive days up to one month. If you are visiting just the south east region of Britain around London, then the BritRail South East Pass is for you. The BritRail Classic and South East Passes are not sold in Britain and you must buy them before you leave home. Available in Canada by contacting:
Rail Europe Tel: 1-800-555-2748 Fax: 905-602-4198 8 days \$269 US

Edinburgh Military Tattoo: 1-31 August; A dazzling and compelling celebration of music, dance and drama set against the magnificent backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. Featuring the world famous massed pipes and drums, massed military bands, highland dancers and the haunting sound of the lone piper.

Chartwell House: 7 pounds; The home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1924 until his death, Chartwell is still much as he left it, the rooms strongly evoking his career and wide interests. They include museum rooms with medals, uniforms, photographs and gifts from all over the world. An exhibition recalls Churchill's life. A studio in the garden contains many of his paintings and there is also a Golden Rose Walk, lakes, black swans, Oscar Nemon's statue of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill and his hand-built wall.

Chelsea Flower Show: May; 13 pounds; Royal Hospital Chelsea

Buckingham Palace: 12.50 pounds, kids half price; Visitors may tour the 19 State Rooms, including the Throne Room, Picture Gallery and Ballroom, the largest room in Buckingham Palace used for investitures and State banquets. All the State rooms are opulently decorated with some of the finest pictures, tapestries and works of art from the Royal Collection. The extended visitor route includes a 450 metre walk through the south side of the Palace garden.

Golf: For spectators there's a host of top-class action including the Open Championship, the World Matchplay Championship and the Ryder Cup. The world's very best can be seen in action on some of the oldest courses in the sport. But the real attraction for golf lovers is the variety and quality of the many courses available to play. You could be punching the air like Ballesteros did on the 18th at the Old Course at St Andrews when he won the Open Championship in 1987. Or would you rather recreate famous Ryder Cup duels at The De Vere Belfry in the heart of Warwickshire. And it's not just the famous courses on offer. For example the legendary St Andrews offers five other courses as well as the famous Old Course. The variety of other golfing challenges is amazing. You might choose to pit your wits on rugged, windblown seaside links courses offering stunning scenery of the British coastline. Many of these courses have barely changed for 100 years or more and are still as challenging as ever. If that doesn't take your fancy there are lush, parkland courses such as Wentworth in Surrey or Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, heathland links such as Walton Heath in Berkshire and up-to-date American layouts such as St Mellion in Cornwall, designed by Jack Nicklaus. The majority of courses are cheap to play and easy to book. Many businesses run complete golf holiday packages to cater for all your playing needs.

Cities:

London is the world's greatest city – and there's never been a better time to visit. The London Pass: from 12 pounds/day – free entry to 50 attractions, beat the queues

Bath: Superb Roman remains, a wealth of fine Georgian architecture and impeccable historic credentials. No wonder Bath is a World Heritage Site.

Birmingham in the 21st century is a city alive with the buzz of major European concerts and events, with the colour and designs of boutique shops and a pulsating nightlife.

Brighton: A sparkling mix of sea and city, Brighton is perfect for a short break at any time of year - all the fun of the seaside, in just under an hour from central London!

Bristol: Cosmopolitan, cool and cultural.... Bristol is a city of films and festivals,

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	<p>concerts and carnivals, theatres and museums, clubs and DJs, food and fun.</p> <p>Canterbury: Historic cathedral city of Chaucer's Tales and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Great shopping, restaurants and other attractions will also greet modern day 'pilgrims' to this walled city.</p> <p>Chester: Ancient, dynamic, traditional, exciting, Chester offers a fantastic break. Enjoy café society, classy architecture, world-class heritage, entertainment and festivals galore.</p> <p>Liverpool: Familiar to many as the birthplace of The Beatles and the home of Liverpool FC, Liverpool is now attracting attention as European Capital of Culture 2008.</p> <p>Manchester: First time visitors to Manchester are always won over by its stunning architecture, cultural attractions and legendary friendliness.</p> <p>Newcastle: In the North East of England, Newcastle and Gateshead face each other across the River Tyne coming together at the dazzling Quayside.</p> <p>Oxford: This ancient university city is both timeless and modern, its 'dreaming spires' and tranquil college quadrangles coexist with lively arts venues.</p> <p>Portsmouth is a surprising place – the UK's only island city, combining centuries of maritime history with great shopping, eating and drinking, on a cosmopolitan waterfront.</p> <p>Stratford-upon-Avon: Beautifully situated on the River Avon, Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of England's greatest playwright, William Shakespeare, and home of the Royal Shakespeare Company.</p> <p>York: Outstanding architecture and 2000 years of history combine with bustling shopping streets and numerous award winning world-class attractions.</p> <p>Glasgow, Scotland's largest city is famous for its culture, architecture, and design. This is Scotland with Style.</p> <p>Cardiff: The capital of Wales is one of Europe's youngest capitals, with a progressive and confident personality to match. Cardiff is also among the UK's greenest cities, so relax!</p> <p>Belfast: Imagine a city where in squares, avenues and streets of magnificent Victorian and Edwardian architecture the past still breathes.</p>
<p>FRANCE</p>	<p>Language: The national language of France is French. Most of French people who work in the tourism industry and in related fields speak English.</p> <p>Population: 61 million</p> <p>Website: www.franceguide.com to order your free copy of the 2008 FranceGuide magazine</p> <p>Climate: Continental France is divided into four climatic zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oceanic and humid climate with often cool summers to the west of a line from Bayonne to Lille; - Semi-continental climate with harsh winters and hot summers in Alsace, Lorraine, along the Rhône corridor and in the mountainous massifs (Alps, Pyrenees and Massif Central); - Intermediate climate with cold winters and hot summers in the north, and in the Paris and central regions; - Mediterranean climate with mild winters and very hot summers in the south of France. <p>Government: Republic with 22 regions</p> <p>Currency: 1 Euro = \$1.58 CDN (22 March 2008)</p> <p>Documentation: Passports</p> <p>Shopping: the best buys in France are:</p> <p>Beauty Products - at a "duty-free" (non-airport variety) store or a discounter where you can qualify for détaxe, you'll see anywhere from 20% to 45% melt off your bill. Paris offers the most duty-free stores and bigger discounts on name-brand goods, but any city with a tourist business, such as Nice, Cannes, Monaco, or Biarritz, has at least one discounter</p> <p>Crafts - The main faïence (earthenware) cities are in the north, stretching from Rouen in</p>

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the northeast to Quimper on the Atlantic coast. Moustier Ste-Marie in Provence is known for a type of faïence with animals. You'll find tiles in the south; check out Salernes. Soap making is an art in the south, with soap makers dotting Marseille and Provence. L'Occitane, a Provençal brand, operates boutiques in Provence and Paris. You'll find copper cooking pots in northern France, especially in the Normandy village of Villedieu-les-Poêles, 35km (22 miles) south of St-Lô, near Mont-St-Michel.

Copper-lined cookware has been made here since the 1700s, and dozens of stores sell huge amounts of the stuff.

Northeastern France, near Strasbourg, is the home of Baccarat crystal, and Burgundy is known for its large hand-carved (and very heavy) furniture.

Fashion - You can find knockoffs all over, at more than affordable prices, in the two major dime-store chains. Every major city has a Monoprix (owned by Galeries Lafayette), a Prisunic (owned by Au Printemps), or both.

Food - You'll be safe with mustard; Dijon brims with choices, but any French grocery store will have a large selection of the Maille brand. You can buy chocolates in grocery stores, but if you want to know what everyone's raving about, save up a few euros and head to the chocolatiers in Lyon or Paris, preferably in the cooler months. You should consume handmade fresh chocolate within 3 days. In Paris, the big outlets are La Maison du Chocolat and Christian Constant.

Kitchenware - Innovative kitchen appliances are promoted all over France, but their electricity requirements aren't compatible with North America's. However, the copper-lined casseroles and thick-walled roasters might last a lifetime once you recover from the shock of their prices. You can buy used copperware at almost any flea market. Copper polish is sold at markets as well. In Paris, hit rue Montmartre in the 2nd arrondissement (not in Montmartre) for a choice of kitchen and restaurant suppliers.

Perfume - Note that French perfume lasts longer than the Canadian counterpart of the same scent (it's made with potato alcohol, not grain alcohol), and most new scents are launched in France before they come to Canada.

Porcelain - head to Limoges (in the Limousin), where factory shops sell local wares and a few seconds. Note that factory shops are closed from noon to 2pm. In Limoges, look for Bernardaud and Raynaud; in Aix-sur-Vienne, there's the Ancienne Manufacture Royale de Limoges.

Tiping: The law requires all bills to say service compris, which means the total includes the tip. But French diners often leave some small change as an additional tip, especially if service has been exceptional. Some general guidelines: For hotel staff, tip 1.05€ to 1.50€ for every item of baggage the porter carries on arrival and departure, and 1.50€ per day for the maid. In cafes, service is usually included. Tip taxi drivers 10% to 15% of the amount on the meter.

Transport: In Paris the metro is by far the quickest and most practical way of getting about 15 lines and around 300 stations.

High-speed train (TGV) - With a speed of 300km per hour, the TGV is one of France's technological pride and joys. Safe, punctual and comfortable, it allows travel to city centres in record time: Paris-Lille in 1 hour, Paris-Marseille or Paris-Bordeaux in 3 hours, Paris-Rennes in 2 hours. Please note that booking is obligatory, even if it is just before departure time.

Driving: on right as Canada; The Canadian driving license is valid for 3 months in France

Beaches: France has miles of Atlantic coastal sandy beaches, the fun Mediterranean coast, or the charms of Corsica36 resorts in our Seaside Holidays club have special offers – go to website to see what is on offer

Biking: Paris has put a lot of emphasis on pedestrianised streets and has laid out paths reserved for cyclists and rollerbladers: widened bus lanes (used by RATP buses and taxis), safe cycle tracks are appearing nearly everywhere, especially on the major

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	<p>roads. On Sundays the roads by the side of the Seine are completely reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, rollerbladers.</p> <p>Timing: The best time to visit Paris is in the spring (Apr-June) or fall (Sept-Nov), when things are easier to come by - from Métro seats to good-tempered waiters. The weather is temperate year-round. July and August are the worst for crowds. Parisians desert their city, leaving it to the tourists.</p> <p>Golf: France, a land of golf, has over 500 golf courses and still more are being designed. Courses have been created here by the top architects: Robert Trent Jones Snr & Jnr, Nicklaus, Hawtree, Pete Dye, Gary Player, Robert Von Hagge, Ronald Fream, Tom Simpson, Peter Alliss. From fairways overlooking the sea to glistening snow-covered peaks. Book tee times online at website.</p> <p>Food: cooking schools in Paris – Le Cordon Bleu;</p> <p>Nightlife: Opera; Crazy Horse Saloon; Folies Bergere; dance clubs; wine bars; Jazz clubs; Moulin Rouge; Lido de Paris</p> <p>1,000 places to See before you die: lots! Cave of Lascaux; Biarritz; St-Emilion; Burgundy; Giverny (Claude Monet); Mont-Saint-Michel; D-Day Beaches; Paris; Chartres Cathedral; Versailles; The Camargue; Carcassonne; Lourdes; Loire Valley chateaux; Aix-En Provence; Arles Amphitheatre; Avignon; Nice; St Tropez; Annecy; Courchevel; Chamonix/Mont Blanc...</p> <p>Health: In general, France is a safe destination. You don't need shots, most food is safe, and the water is potable. If you're concerned, order bottled water. It is easy to get a prescription filled, and nearly all destinations have English-speaking doctors at hospitals with well-trained staffs</p> <p>Safety: Much of the country, particularly central France, the northeast, Normandy, and Brittany, remains relatively safe, though no place in the world is crime-free. Those intending to visit the south of France, especially the Riviera, should exercise caution.</p> <p>Kids: Disneyland Paris – 45 mins by RER train; Paris Zoo; Eiffel Tower Chateau de Versailles – Hall of Mirrors</p> <p>History: 52BC Julius Caesar defeated Vercingetorix</p> <p>Museums: Paris has 134 museums!</p> <p>Personal experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paris - Normandy - Skiing: Trois Vallees, Val D'Isere, La Plagne - Cote d'Azur - Canals - barging
IRELAND	<p>Personal experiences: Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Cork, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Antrim Coast, Giants Causeway, Bushmills, Dunluce Castle, Blarney Castle See separate entries under Ireland in this Destinations section for further information</p> <p>See separate entry in Destinations section of this website</p>
AUSTRIA	<p>Personal experiences: Vienna, Salzburg, Austrian Tyrol, Innsbruck, Ischgl, Skiing</p> <p>See separate entries under Austria in this Destinations section for further information</p>
NETHERLANDS	<p>Personal experiences: Amsterdam, The Hague, Madurodam, Rotterdam, Edam</p>
GERMANY	<p>Personal experiences: Frankfurt; Berlin; Dresden; Black Forest; Cologne; Trier; Hamburg; Rhine Valley; Munster</p> <p>Location: Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark; coastline of 2,389 km; highest point: Zugspitze 2,963 m</p> <p>Languages: German; much English spoken</p> <p>Population: 82 million</p>

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Climate: Germany is not prey to dramatic climatic extremes, although there are regional differences. The most reliably good weather is from May to October, with high summer a good bet for mid 20°C shorts-and-t-shirt conditions, even in the north. Autumn is a good time to visit Germany. As the tourist scrum disperses and the forests turn golden, it's not too stifling to be active but still warm enough to leave you thirsty for a few well-deserved steins. Winter is frosty and wet, especially in the south, with snow rarely settling for long except in the high country.

When to go: The shoulder seasons (from March to May and from October to early November) bring fewer tourists and often surprisingly pleasant weather. In April and May, when flowers and fruit trees are in bloom, it can be mild and sunny. Indian summers that stretch well into autumn are not uncommon.

Government: The Federal Republic of Germany is a democracy with a liberal market economy, religious freedom and freedom of the press. It is a member of the European Union (EU) and of NATO. The Federal Republic of Germany is a federation of individual states. There are 16 "Bundesländer" which are federal states with their own government.

Voltage: 230 V

Currency: 1 Euro = \$1.58 CDN (22 March 2008)

Documentation: The passport must be valid for at least another four months after entry into Germany or the Schengen area.

Shopping: there are so many things that make a shopping tour around cities like Munich, Hamburg or Berlin particularly special: German "originals", for example, such as BOSS, Meissen porcelain, Faber-Castell and Adidas. Traditional products such as Nuremberg gingerbread and the excellent German wines are also well worth seeking out.

Tipping: It's common in Germany to round up the bill in restaurants or pubs. Since the introduction of the Euro, a tip of about 10% is customary if you were satisfied with the service. Taxi driver: 5%-10% ; Chambermaid: €2 per day ; Carrying luggage: €1 per piece

Transport: Munich to Berlin by high speed train in 5 hours

UNESCO Heritage Sites: 33

Beaches: The rugged North Sea, the gentler Baltic, life at an island pace, bracing air, more than 1,000 kilometres of beach and plenty of sun. Add to that, a never-ending choice of sports, spectacular events and nightlife into the early hours.

History: The state now known as Germany was unified as a modern nation-state only in 1871, when the German Empire, dominated by the Kingdom of Prussia, was forged.

Hiking: Germany is a traveler's paradise with its romantic forests, picturesque hill and mountain landscapes, and tranquilly embedded seas. From hikes along tidal shores to trips through the low mountain regions all the way to mountain-top tours, everything is possible. Along many of these routes are hotels and inns that provide specialized accommodations for hikers. Many trip-organizers offer comfortable "hiking without luggage" packages. Youth groups can frequently choose from various camps, leisure activities, adventurous hiking trips and youth educational programs.

Biking: The brochure "Discovering Germany by Bike" presents a variety of offers on the most attractive routes and regions. Sign posts, bike-friendly overnight accommodations, good bicycle travel maps and main information centers are only some of the important points covered in this catalog.

Golf: weekday green fees around \$60 cdn

Food: lots of great regional dishes

Nightlife: Hamburg, Berlin

1,000 places to See before you die: Baden-Baden; Lake Constance/The Bodensee; The Alpine Road; The Romantic Road; Bamberg; Neuschwanstein Castle; Alte Pinakothek, Munich; Deutsches Museum, Munich; Oktoberfest; Passion Play of

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Oberammergau; Regensburg; Berlin Philharmonic; Brandenburg Gate; Berlin Museums; Sans Souci palace, Potsdam; The Zwinger palace, Berlin; Bayreuth Music Festival; The Rhine Valley; Cologne's Cathedral Quarter; Heidelberg's Schloss; Lubeck; Sylt island; Weimar

Health: Germany has excellent health care, but its cost is expensive - come with decent insurance.

Safety: normal precautions required, otherwise very good

Kids: very child friendly – castles, parks, zoos, boat rides

Cities: The five largest cities in Germany:
Berlin (capital of Germany) with 3,391,407 inhabitants Hamburg with 1,736,752 inhabitants Munich with 1,397,537 inhabitants Cologne with 975,907 inhabitants Frankfurt am Main with 657,126 inhabitants

Museums: Berlin has 175 museums alone!

Rail Europe: Euro Domino Pass or German Rail Pass for 4 to 10 days

Castle Hotels: Lots, eg on the Romantic Road

Music: In the field of music, Germany's influence is noted through the works of, among others, Bach, Mozart, Händel, Telemann, Schütz, Beethoven, Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Humperdinck, Nicolai, Lortzing, Brahms, Schumann, Wagner, Pachelbel, Offenbach, Furtwängler, Eisler, Reger, Strauss, Hindemith, Orff, Stockhausen, Henze and Lachenmann. Germany also has indulged in other types of music such as Hard Rock/Heavy Metal in which Oomph! and Rammstein are leading the way.

Festivals: Carnival - "Fasching", "Fasnacht" or "Karneval" are all terms used to describe carnival, an ancient tradition which is celebrated all over Germany but particularly in the Rhineland and in the strongly Catholic regions of Germany. Mainz, Cologne, Düsseldorf and Bonn are hotbeds of carnival fun.

Oktoberfest: Germany's biggest and best-known festival is the Munich Beer Festival, also known as the "Oktoberfest" and the "Wiesn". More than six million visitors flock to the Theresienwiese every year to drink beer from large litre tankards and eat pork sausages and pretzels.

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