

# Your odyssey

Susan and Richard will introduce you to their favourite European haunts and you will come home with new found skills, painted cameos, magical photographs and an insight into the mysteries of wine.

**SAT**  
**6** NICE

This tour is land only and all guests join in Nice. Make your own way to our 'joining hotel' for an overnight stop prior to the group departure the next day. Meet your gracious hosts, Susan and Richard on arrival. Settle in to your room and relax for the remainder of the day. You are invited to the lounge of the hotel at 7.00pm for a "Welcome Drink" and to meet the rest of the group.

**SUN**  
**7** ST PAUL DE VENCE B

Following breakfast you will be met and transferred to St Paul de Vence and the Les Vergers Hotel on the fringe of the old town. St Paul de Vence is beautifully situated amongst stately cypress trees in the hinterland of Nice. This most famous hill-top village was once a French frontier post facing the powerful Kingdom of Savoy. These days its authentic winding streets and medieval buildings are the favourite subject of artists visiting the area and as such, it is the perfect place to be your home for the next six glorious nights.

During our stay in St Paul de Vence and Stresa, Susan and Richard will host Art, Photography and Wine Appreciation workshops. It is important to note that the watercolour painting workshops are not 'formal workshops' - they are a fun journey into holiday painting for those who have always wanted to dabble or extend a little on what they already know. It is about discovering magical places and little treasures to paint that capture the creative imagination of the artist in us all.

Susan will share her knowledge and guidance so you can capture your own experience in watercolour.

Richard will open new horizons with his knowledge of photography and how to get the most from your camera to create magical shots...and then tempt your taste buds as he demystifies wine with two 'tastings'.

**SUN**  
**8** ST PAUL DE VENCE B

Activities today with Susan and Richard.

**Morning is Art 1.** Have fun at the hotel with colour-mixing and learning all of the hints and tips to create evocative holiday paintings.

**Afternoon is Photography 1** at the hotel and surroundings. Composition, close ups and basic parameters.

**MON**  
**9** ST PAUL DE VENCE / CANNES B

Activities with Susan.

**Morning is Art 2.** Drawing and painting the essence of this little pocket of Provence "on location". Some may like to begin a cameo painting which captures the feeling of 'being in this magical part of the world'.

This afternoon you will join your private coach and local guide to drive along the Cote d'Azur through

Antibes, with its sumptuous villas, and Juan les Pins before arriving at the film festival town of Cannes. Your orientation tour pinpoints the Palais des Festivals, the glamorous Boulevard de la Croisette and Le Suquet district before there's time for a coffee amongst the members of the jet-set residing here for the summer.

**TUE**  
**10** ST PAUL DE VENCE / MONACO B

Activities with Susan.

**Morning is Art 3.** Painting. Putting all we have learned into practice. Lets paint more of this medieval village full of surprise and inspiration.

Early afternoon at your leisure. Later in the day join your private coach and guide to drive along the Promenade des Anglais, the beautiful beach front boulevard of Nice, before entering the Moyenne Corniche and the 'oldest and most genuine' part of the French Riviera.

Your first stop is at Eze where you will visit a French perfumery to sample the many fragrances for which this area is so famous. Continuing along the scenic Moyenne Corniche you will view the most expensive real estate in France, built on Cap Ferrat, along with the exclusive resorts of Beaulieu and Villefranche-sur-Mer before arriving in the fairy tale Principality of Monaco with its renowned casino in Monte Carlo. There will be time to dine in Monaco (at your own expense) before returning to St Paul de Vence in the evening.

**WED**  
**11** ST PAUL DE VENCE B

Activities today with Susan and Richard.

**Morning is Photography 2.** Excursion to the Nice flower market and using aperture for creativity.

**Afternoon is Art 4.** Art Appreciation. Maeght Foundation and St Paul galleries. "What is it that makes a successful painting?" Lets explore the St Paul de Vence galleries to see which paintings speak to us and why?

**THU**  
**12** ST PAUL DE VENCE B

Activities today with Richard.

**Morning is Photography 3.** Learn all about shutter speed for creativity.

**Afternoon.** Richard will host a wine tasting on "Whites".

**FRI**  
**13** ST PAUL DE VENCE / STRESA B

This morning after breakfast it is 'au revoir' to France as we continue our journey to Italy. You will travel via the Riviera de Fiore with its spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast until a change of direction at Genoa takes you north into Lombardy and Stresa. Staying at the Grand Hotel Bristol for three nights, on stunning Lake Maggiore in the beautiful Italian Lakes District. Such a contrast from the hinterland of Nice.

**SAT**  
**14** STRESA B

After a leisurely breakfast, depart on your cruise to the Borromean Islands which takes you first to Isola Bella and Count Vitaliano Borromeo's baroque palace. Inside, its treasures include tapestries, furniture and paintings. Outside, the lush pre-alpine ranges provide a stunning backdrop to the enchanting gardens of rhododendrons

and azaleas which surround you.

Next stop is Isola Madre where you visit the residential home of the Borromeo family along with its wonderful gardens of rare and exotic plants before returning to Stresa in the early afternoon.

This afternoon is at your leisure to explore.

**SUN**  
**15** STRESA B

Activities today with Susan and Richard.

**Morning is Art 5.** Lets discover Stresa's secrets as around every corner is a magical painting subject.

**Afternoon.** Richard will host a wine tasting on "Reds".

**MON**  
**16** STRESA / VENICE B D

Today, after breakfast, you will enjoy an incredibly beautiful scenic drive from Lake Maggiore to Lake Como where you hop aboard a small motorised vessel to cruise to Bellagio - revealing the stunning majesty of the lake in all its glory. There will be time for lunch (at your own expense) in this pretty resort before your afternoon drive brings you to Venice where you will be transferred to the Carlton and Grand Canal Hotel located right on the Grand Canal in the very popular Cannaregio district of this famous city for your overnight stay. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and enjoy Italy's "heart".

In the early evening we will take you on a gondola ride and glide through the enchanting canals, whilst being serenaded by these dashing Gondoli in their distinctive striped vests. From here we have an exciting "surprise" excursion planned. Make sure you purchase your favourite Venetian mask before our meeting time at 5pm in the hotel lobby for "a night out Venetian style"!!

**TUE**  
**17** VENICE B

Today, after breakfast you can further explore Venice at your leisure. Your private transfer departs from your hotel around midday to take you to the cruise port of Venice. Board your home for the next 12 nights and check-in to your gracious Balcony Stateroom on board the mv Zuiderdam. Embark on a fabulous 13 day itinerary from Venice exploring the Mediterranean Empires.

Once aboard and unpacked, you can familiarise yourself with your 'home away from home' - floating resort taking you on a fascinating journey visiting eight different ports-of-call. The rest of the day at your leisure. The Zuiderdam overnights in Venice giving you ample opportunity to enjoy another night of Venetian cuisine at any one of the vast amount of eating establishments, if you choose to dine on shore.

**WED**  
**18** VENICE B L D

Zuiderdam departs from Venice at 6.00pm.

**THU**  
**19** VENICE / SPLIT B L D

Your ship takes you to the city of Split in Croatia for a day stop-over.

**FRI**  
**20** SPLIT / ATHENS B L D

Today is spent cruising the stunning Mediterranean with Athens being your next destination.

**SAT**  
**21** ATHENS / ISTANBUL B L D

Enter the port of Piraeus which is the gateway to the wonders of Athens, including the Acropolis, Constitution Square, Hadrian's Arch, the Olympic Stadium and so much more.

After spending a full day at the port of this ancient city the Zuiderdam will depart in the late afternoon to continue your journey.

**SUN**  
**22** ISTANBUL B L D

The Zuiderdam will dock at Istanbul in the late afternoon giving you the opportunity to spend the evening and the following day in this historic metropolis.

In the course of its history this city has also been known as Byzantium and Constantinople. Istanbul's rich past is evident in such sights as the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, which was the home of Ottoman sultans.

**MON**  
**23** ISTANBUL B L D

After breakfast we will depart on a Highlights of Istanbul tour. The cruise ship departs at 5.00pm.

**TUE**  
**24** MYKONOS B L D

You have the opportunity to spend the afternoon and early evening exploring this Greek island to discover its ancient past.

**WED**  
**25** MYKONOS / KUSADASI B L D

From Mykonos your ship cruises back to the Turkish mainland to the city of Kusadasi, where you can spend the day shopping or taking in the sights before departing in the late afternoon.

**THU**  
**26** KUSADASI / SANTORINI B L D

The harbour on the island of Santorini was created by a volcano in 1500 BC, and the effect is still obvious with its steep cliffs rising from the sea. You have the whole day to explore this wonderful island with its cubist style white houses that glow in the Aegean sun.

**FRI**  
**27** SANTORINI / KATAKOLON B L D

Katakolon is your gateway to Olympia, site of the original Olympic Stadium and host to some games of the 2004 Olympiad. A stop-off that's well with a visit.

**SAT**  
**28** KATAKOLON / VENICE B L D

Today is spent at sea where you can enjoy just relaxing or taking part in many of the onboard activities available.

**SAT**  
**29** VENICE B

Sadly, today your journey comes to an end. Disembark from Zuiderdam today, after breakfast, in the Port of Venice and say 'au revoir' and farewell to your hosts Susan and Richard.

Our journey has come to an end and we hope to meet up with you, in good spirits, again soon.

