



**United Travel**  
For the love of travel.

**Meet Your Tour Guides:**



Recognised as one of New Zealand's favourite artists, Susan Harrison-Tustain enjoys an extraordinarily successful career as an internationally acclaimed and award winning artist, mentor and tutor. Her work can be found in numerous collections, art books and publications around the world. Her husband Richard

has worked as a European Tour Leader for many seasons and was in the New Zealand wine industry for 15 years. Richard is a very accomplished photographer.

Both Susan and Richard have travelled extensively and draw from this expertise when they hand pick stunning destinations and create unforgettable experiences for their tour guests. They are delighted with their 2016 Mediterranean "Portrait of Europe - The Best of the Best" tour as it reveals the magic of their favourite haunts in France, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and Turkey.

"Our tours are about creating leisurely paced holidays of a lifetime that spring from our unique mix of skills - beginning with our wide experience in travel, painting, photography, wine appreciation and Mediterranean cuisine. It's a great combination that works extremely well for our tour guests and allows unique additional options. I think the best testament comes from those who want to return again and again" says Susan.



**What's included in your tour:**

- Fully escorted by Susan and Richard from Istanbul to Paris
- All transfers to and from airports and train stations
- 32 nights accommodation (including cruise) with meals as specified. (All breakfasts included).
- 11 nights cruising on Azamara Journey in Twin Balcony staterooms with all onboard meals including standard select wines and spirits, international beers, bottled water, soft drinks, specialty coffees and teas. Self-service laundry. Gratuities also included on cruise
- Porterage throughout based on 1 suitcase per person
- Luxury air conditioned coaches
- Painting with Susan and Photography with Richard
- Meeting and welcome drinks at tour start in Istanbul
- Guided visit of the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace and Harem, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Cisterns in Istanbul with lunch included or culinary back streets guided tour
- Internal flights during tour – Istanbul to Cappadocia return & Geneva to Toulouse
- Traditional Turkish lunch excursion from Goreme on day of arrival
- Turkish dinner with wine, music and dance in Cappadocia
- 2 guided Cappadocia Sightseeing excursions
- Concert Evening in the 2nd Century AD open-air Odeon theatre in Ephesus
- Burano (Venice) excursion with water taxi transfers and dinner with drinks
- Jungfrauoch Excursion from Lauterbrunnen
- Visits to Revel Market and Carcassonne walled town
- Cooking school and dinner in Cuq Toulza
- Classical concert in Church at Cuq Toulza
- 2 Wine appreciation tastings with Richard
- Excursion to the Médoc wine area of Bordeaux
- Farewell Drinks and Dinner in Saint-Émilion
- TGV high speed train from Bordeaux to Paris
- Gratuities to drivers and guides for excursions on the land portion of this itinerary

**What's not included in your tour:**

- International Airfares
- Travel Insurance (this is mandatory)
- Currency fluctuations
- Passport and Visa fees
- Personal meals and beverages (unless included in the itinerary)
- Items of a personal nature
- Suggested optional land and ship excursions



# Portrait of Europe

## The Best of the Best

**The Best of the Best**

32 nights accommodation including 11 night cruise from  
**\$21,985\***

Per person, twin share.  
Pre & post tour flights are additional; tour starts in Istanbul.

Join world acclaimed artist Susan Harrison-Tustain and inspiring photographer husband Richard, on their leisurely paced 'Portrait of Europe' Tour. The hand-picked destinations, excursions and adventures are specifically chosen to bring an incomparable and diverse array of exceptional ingredients that are woven together to create a truly unforgettable experience. Begin in exotic Istanbul then be mesmerised by Cappadocia. Board your superb Azamara Journey luxury cruise via Gallipoli, Ephesus and the sun drenched Greek Islands, then on to Montenegro and Croatia before disembarking in breathtaking Venice.

Then become immersed in the village lifestyle of Italy, Switzerland and France with your inspirational tour leaders who offer magical sights, extraordinary adventures, painting, photography, wine and cooking experiences - all in this unique tour of a lifetime.

\*Pricing is based on per person twin or double (single supplement on application) joining in Istanbul on Tuesday 23 August 2016. All pricing is in NZD. Sales are valid until the Tour sells out. Confirmation of your booking will be secured by a \$2000.00 non-refundable deposit per person. A further payment of \$8,000.00 per person is due by 31 November 2015. The final balance is due by 31 May 2016. All tour payments are subject to supplier and agent cancellation fees. Travel Insurance is mandatory. Payment by credit card will incur a 2% surcharge. The tour price is based on the current exchange rate as at 31 March 2015. We reserve the right to adjust prices subject to change and without notification. It is our policy to present the true cost of our itineraries inclusive of all pre payable levies and surcharges as at 31 March 2015. Any new fees or levies are outside our control and will be added to the cost of the tour. This group is based on a minimum number of 18 guests which includes your tour guides. The tour price is subject to change if the minimum number is not reached. We reserve the right in unforeseen circumstances to change or substitute the nominated tour guides. Please contact us for full terms & conditions. UT2428

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# Itinerary

Our aptly titled 'Portrait of Europe – The Best of The Best' 2016 tour is specifically designed to allow you time to immerse yourself in 'authentic Europe' and delight in the heart and soul of each destination. Our hand-picked destinations and experiences make this an adventure you will treasure for a lifetime. Our 2016 tour combines the most savoured highlights in our wonderfully successful 2012 and 2014 tours as well as introducing some spectacular new destinations and adventures not to be missed. No words or brochure could ever capture all the magic you will discover in the amazing experiences we have woven together for you.

## Tue 23 Aug 2016: Turkey - Istanbul

Our tour starts in mystical Istanbul. Join us for welcome drinks and nibbles at 6pm in our favourite and centrally located hotel: Hagia Sofia Old City Hotel. Let the adventure begin!

## Wed 24 Aug: Turkey - Istanbul (BBL)

Discover the influences of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman Empires - while taking in the seductive Topkapi Palace and Harem of the Sultans, the intriguing Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Basilica Cisterns and Grand Bazaar. Alternatively, partake in a fabulous culinary back streets walk with our local guide. Experience off the beaten track authentic tastes of Turkey - and insights into the local way of life.

## Thu 25 Aug: Turkey - Cappadocia (BBLD)

Our flight will whisk you to the mesmerizing moonscape of Cappadocia. Indulge in the spell-binding and authentic experiences you have ahead. Goreme awaits - as does an oasis of trees in the Valley of the Kings under which we will indulge in our first sumptuous lunch of authentic Turkish cuisine. Our exquisite cave hotel, the boutique Museum Hotel (Turkey's only Relais et Châteaux hotel) will stay with you forever!

This evening we enjoy authentic Turkish cuisine while being serenaded with lively Turkish music and dance – a night to remember!

## Fri 26 Aug: Turkey - Cappadocia (BBL)

An array of cultures and people have left their mark on Cappadocia. Our guided tour today gives us the opportunity to discover some amazing history as we visit Avanos Market and Pottery, Goreme Open Air Museum, Pasabag 'Fairy Chimneys', the Devrent Valley and 'Red and Rose' valleys.

## Sat 27 Aug: Turkey - Cappadocia (BB)

Capture the exotic colours and essence of this unique and mystical land in a photography session with Richard - what better place to try your hand at painting than this captivating landscape, with Susan to guide you. Time for relaxation and exploration too.

Optional extra: An early morning balloon flight over the spectacular Cappadocian moonscape as the first rays of sun finger across the horizon, famed to be 'the best balloon experience in the world'.

## Sun 28 Aug: Turkey - Cappadocia (BBL)

Put into practice your new-found photography expertise. A morning horse ride will bring another new dimension as you discover the captivating countryside as the locals have done for centuries. This is followed by a delightfully flavoursome Turkish lunch freshly prepared. Discover the geological features converted into dwellings at the vast Kaymakli subterranean city where 10s of thousands of people lived in times past.

## Mon 29 Aug: Turkey Cruise (BBLD)

Fly back to Istanbul and board our 5 Star Azamara Journey cruise for 11 glorious nights in luxurious Balcony Staterooms. The service and cuisine are superb. Azamara know how to make cruising as it should be! Once on board enjoy lunch, explore the ship, relax, then join your hosts for a sumptuous dinner. During the cruise there are numerous Azamara shore excursions available, or feel free to join Richard and Susan as they introduce you to some of their favourite cruise ports of call.

## Tue 30 Aug: Turkey Cruise - Çanakkale (Kepez) (BBLD)

Docked at Çanakkale on the Asian coast of the narrow Dardanelles strait. Optional extra: Take an Azamara excursion to Gallipoli including Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, and the 57th Regiment Turkish Cemetery.

## Wed 31 Aug: Turkey Cruise - Kusadasi (for Ephesus) (BBLD)

Today we visit Kusadasi and the ancient world of Ephesus. Picture the sun going down as we delight in a complimentary Evening Concert just for Azamara guests in the open-air, 2nd Century AD Roman Odeon Theatre!

## Thu 01 Sep: Greece Cruise – Paros Island (BBLD)

The beautiful island of Paros gives us our first taste of Greece on this tour. Paroikia Village, where we land, has a Venetian Castle, 'Church of 100 doors' and Archaeological Museum. You may like to visit coastal Naousa or inland Lefkes on a cruise excursion. Take your pick. Relax and enjoy!

## Fri 02 Sep: Greece Cruise – Santorini Island (BBLD)

Santorini has picture-perfect beauty. There's shopping in Fira, breath-taking views in Oia and the phenomenal excavations at Akrotiri. You may like to join Susan as she guides you to her favourite beach for a swim in the crystal clear water. A Maitai, Piña Colada or freshly squeezed pomegranate and orange juice under thatched umbrellas is a lovely way to end the day before heading back to our cruise ship for another evening of fine dining.

## Sat 03 Sep: At sea (BBLD)

A wonderful opportunity to explore your floating luxury hotel. Take a little time out to relax, swim, read, dine, savour, pamper yourself and contemplate the blue Mediterranean as it slips gently behind us.

## Sun 04 Sep: Montenegro Cruise - Kotor (BBLD)

The old city of Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns. Cobble streets leading to sun splashed piazzas give a sense of stepping back in time. Relax at a café, chat with the locals or take an Azamara excursion further afield. The choices abound!

## Mon 05 Sep: Croatia Cruise - Dubrovnik (BBLD)

Dubrovnik, the Pearl of the Adriatic, is surrounded by massive walls enclosing its pedestrian-only marble streets, squares and Baroque buildings. The city is vibrant, civilised and sophisticated. You may like to walk the walls, ride the cable car (or hike the trail) up Mt Srdj for spectacular views, visit the Franciscan monastery. And so much more...

## Tue 06 Sep: Croatia Cruise – Hvar Island (BBLD)

Vast lavender fields, olive groves, vineyards, a rich cultural and historic heritage, mild climate and hospitable locals: as the information office says: "Whatever you are looking for on your vacation, you may find it here." Richard has a plan that includes ancient architecture, wine, a characterful village and local cuisine. Watch this space!

## Wed 07 Sep: Croatia Cruise – Opatija (BBLD)

Lonely Planet sums it up best: "Gentee! Opatija was the most fashionable seaside resort for the Viennese elite during the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – as evidenced by the many beautiful belle époque villas that remain." Relax, explore, take an Azamara excursion to 'the smallest town in the world'... the choice is yours.

## Thu 08 Sep: Italy Cruise – Venice (BBLD)

Awake to extraordinary Venice. Explore St Marks Square, the Rialto & the markets. Peel away the tourism to find the wealth of history, culture, art, architecture and magic of this amazing place. Understand what Venice is all about, why it was built in a lagoon and how Venice was created. Then return to our floating hotel to soak up Azamara luxury just one more night.

## Fri 09 Sep: Italy – Venice (BB)

We disembark from the Azamara Journey and are whisked to our superb Venice hotel. You may like to take an optional gondola ride to explore the romantic canals. The music, the atmosphere and the opportunity to take spectacular photographs around every corner will make this another surreal day. Perhaps visit one of the sumptuous palaces on the Grand Canal and later take in a classical Vivaldi concert.

## Sat 10 Sep: Italy – Venice (BBD)

Now you are feeling like a local! Seek out some of the less visited parts of the city: the Arsenal – in Venice's heyday the most powerful and efficient ship building facility in the world, the Naval Museum or the Giardini area – home to the Venice Biennale.

A further treat awaits. Buy an inexpensive mask, and clad in our finery we leave the 'wet door' of our beautiful hotel to board our private water taxi. The evening is a surprise - this is going to be rather special. A fitting way to spend our last evening in this truly unique city.

## Sun 11 Sep: Italy – Bellagio (BB)

Say 'ciao' to romantic Venice as our luxury coach takes us inland to one of the most captivating lakeside villages - Bellagio – described as the 'Pearl of Lake Como' where our elegant Italian hotel awaits us for two nights. Once you have unpacked and settled in, you might like to meander through the fascinating streets of the old town, browse the shops or sit with a coffee in a local café and watch how the Italians live life. Bella Bellagio!

## Mon 12 Sep: Italy – Bellagio (BB)

Enjoy a day at leisure. You could catch the ferry and visit some of the other lakeside villages for a leisurely lunch. Spend time exploring the tranquil gardens of Villa Melzi, beside the lake, an easy stroll from our hotel. Later in the afternoon enjoy a wine appreciation and tasting session with Richard.

## Tue 13 Sep: Switzerland – Lauterbrunnen (BB)

Today we leave Italy, first by ferry across Lake Como, then by coach as we head for the mountains with their stunningly magnificent scenery. At our journey's end is the gorgeous little Swiss village of Lauterbrunnen. Situated in one of the most breathtakingly beautiful trough valleys in the Alps, between gigantic rock faces and mountain peaks and cascading waterfalls, there is a picture postcard at every turn.

## Wed 14 Sep: Switzerland – Lauterbrunnen (BB)

Take one of the best excursions in Europe, a rack rail train ride to the Jungfrauoch passing through the famous ski resorts of Wengen and Kleine Scheidegg. Take in awe inspiring views as our train carries us into the Eiger itself and arrive at 'The Top of Europe!' Explore the 'ice palace' and spectacular views, including the longest glacier in the Alps. The adventuresome may like to try skiing, the zip-line or tobogganing. Relax in the restaurant and café as you absorb the magnificent scenery!

## Thu 15 Sep: Switzerland – Lauterbrunnen (BB)

Enjoy today as you wish. Relax, stroll through the countryside, or take an excursion up the west side of the valley. An aerial gondola ride takes you up to meadows where you see wildflowers, cows with Swiss bells and chalets on the hillsides. Here you can capture the magic by paint, pencil or photography utilising Susan & Richard's expertise and skilled guidance. Perhaps check out the Trümmelbach Falls before we return to our hotel.

## Fri 16 Sep: France – Cuq Toulza (BB)

Transfer to Geneva airport for our flight to Toulouse. A short coach ride takes us to Cuq Toulza, a tiny hamlet in the countryside of south west France. The exquisite Cuq en Terrasses Hotel - an 18thC presbytery sits atop a hill. This is a haven of peace and tranquillity, the epitome of a relaxed French lifestyle. 2015 Trip Advisor has just awarded our hotel "Second best small hotel in France".

## Sat 17 Sep: France – Cuq Toulza (BBD)

Saturday is market day in Revel. Partially covered by a 14th Century roof, the market is famed for its food and clothing. Buy some delicious local 'treats' for a picnic lunch tomorrow. From here we head to the magnificent medieval fortified town of Carcassone. It has about 2,500 years of history. How could we be in this famous hotel and not partake in a cookschool with resident Masterchef (and co-owner with Philippe) Andonis?

## Sun 18 Sep: France – Cuq Toulza (BB)

Join us as we enjoy the fresh, local market fare at our fun group picnic lunch in our hotel garden. This is a magical way to savour the artisan crafted cheeses, wines and tasty produce of this bountiful region. This day is yours to make your own. Maybe try your hand at painting while overlooking the French landscape from the terrace? Wine tasting with Richard anyone?

## Mon 19 Sep: France – Cuq Toulza (BB)

Absorb the delightful location and ambience of our rural hotel. Enjoy this opportunity to relax and revitalise in this hidden jewel of the French countryside. Swim in the hotel pool, take a leisurely walk down country lanes or we could arrange for you to cycle along a portion of the Canal du Midi. Finish the day with an after-dinner classical concert in the beautiful church across the courtyard from our hotel.

## Tue 20 Sep: France – Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux (BB)

Our luxury coach takes us to the quaint town of Saint-Émilion, in one of the principal red wine areas of Bordeaux, which is the largest wine region in France and one of the truly great wine regions of the world.

## Wed 21 Sep: France – Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux (BB)

Visit Bordeaux city and the famed Médoc wine area on the left bank of the Gironde estuary. The free-draining gravelly soils give Cabernet Sauvignon its predominance and importance in the wines of the top Châteaux of this region. It's harvest time, so vineyard activities will be in full swing.

## Thu 22 Sep: France – Saint-Émilion, Bordeaux (BBD)

A day to explore Saint-Émilion town and the surrounding picturesque vineyards. In the evening we have a special treat planned for our end of tour dinner.

## Fri 23 Sep: France – Paris (BB)

Zoom zoom! This morning we head for Bordeaux Train station to board the lightning fast TGV to Paris arriving early afternoon and heading for our last hotel on tour, the Millennium Opera Hotel in a very central chic part of the 'city of light'. Paris awaits us and so does another magical evening! Let's ride the Metro as Richard takes you to Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur Basilica, then the dazzling lights of the Eiffel Tower.

## Sat 24 Sep: France – Paris (BB)

Sadly it's time to say "au revoir"...for now! Our tour ends after another sumptuous breakfast, we go our separate ways after a holiday packed full of diverse and awe-inspiring experiences and life long memories. Feel free to stay awhile and explore Paris further - at your leisure. See you next time!

BB = Bed & Breakfast BBL = Bed, Breakfast & Lunch  
BBD = Bed, Breakfast & Dinner BBLD = Bed, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner