

England \* France

Spain \* Italy

## Preliminary itinerary for An Autumn Interlude in UK & Europe 2012 18 September - 22 October

**\$11995** - per person twin share in quality accommodation with private facilities.

**Inclusions:** Economy air travel with Thai International \* Pre tour get-together \* All breakfasts, dinners and lunches as per itinerary \* UK and European airport/train/hotel transfers \* Local guides as per itinerary \* Ground transportation in luxury new air conditioned nine seat vehicles \* 3 day London Pass with Travel \* 2 day Paris Pass \* Eurostar fare \* Entrance to all attractions and local tours as per itinerary \* Fully escorted \*

**Not Included** - Air taxes

Single Supplement - \$1980

**B– Breakfast    L – Lunch    D –Dinner**

<b>SEPT Day 1 Tues 18</b>	<b>15.25 - depart Sydney (SYD) Thai Airways TG 478 21.55 - Arrive Bangkok (BKK)</b>	
<b>Day 2 Wed 19</b>	<b>01.10 - Depart Bangkok 07.15 Arrive LONDON (LHR)</b> Transfer to hotel <b>3 nights</b> Your 3 day London Pass is a 'smart card' - like a credit card with a computer chip inside - which allows you completely cash free entry to your choice of over 55 London tourist attractions. This Pass is the ultimate sightseeing package that's specially tailor made for visitors and tourists in London. You also get a comprehensive guidebook, plus queue skipping privileges. The Travelcard gives you unlimited journeys on all London Underground, Buses, Trams, Docklands Light Rail, Over-ground Trains and National Rail Services within zones 1 – 6.	
<b>Day 3 Thur 20</b>	<b>London</b> Free Day. The London guidebook will be given to you at the pre-tour get-together, so you can pre-plan which of the fantastic attractions from top museums and art galleries to historic buildings you wish to visit using your 3 day London Pass with Travelcard.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 4 Fri 21</b>	<b>London</b> Free Day - keep exploring this wonderful city and it's many amazing and historic attractions.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 5 Sat 22</b>	<b>Eurostar to Paris</b> <b>3 nights</b> This morning we will take the Eurostar train (3 1/2hrs) to Paris and transfer to our hotel near the Tour Eiffel and metro station. Your afternoon is free to plan your next 2 days exploration of Paris.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 6 Sun 23</b>	<b>Paris -</b> Free Day - Explore the wonderful City of Light with your 2 day Paris Pass (included). This specially designed sightseeing pass package provides you with everything you need to discover this wonderful city.  Suggestion -The Les Cars Rouge hop-on-hop-off bus tour of Parish with a commentary in English is a good way to orientate your mind to Paris and its many attractions. (Free with Paris Pass) The best panoramic views of the city are from Montmartre and the basilica Sacre-Coeur. Here you can also watch the painters work at their easels. Why not have your portrait done by a French artist! <b>Optional</b> dinner and show at the fabulous Moulin Rouge –advise at the time of reservation.	<b>B</b>

<b>Day 7 Mon 24</b>	<p><b>Paris</b> Free time - Suggestions - Cruise up the majestic Seine and discover the sights of Paris from the water where it is possible to see the bridges and monuments of Paris as you could never hope to from land. Free with your Paris Pass.</p> <p>Visit The Palace of Versailles, a fine example of 18th century French art, this historic building has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List for 30 years. It is one of the largest and most opulent castles in the world and is one of the most visited attractions in France. Free Entry with your Paris Pass</p>	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 8 Tues 25</b>	<p>Paris to <b>Bayeux, Normandy.</b> 235km <b>3 nights</b></p> <p>This morning we will begin our journey in our 9 seat mini buses. On the route to Bayeux we will visit Monet's house &amp; Garden and lunch at Giverny. The Normandy region of France combines a 360-mile dramatic coastline, including the dramatically evocative World War II landing beaches, historic landmarks such as the cities of Caen, Bayeux and Rouen.</p>	<b>BL</b>
<b>Day 9 Wed 26</b>	<p><b>Bayeux</b> Today we have arranged a 5 hour D-Day tour with our buses and a local guide. Although there was fighting all over Lower Normandy, the D-Day landings took place right out in the west of Lower Normandy. This tour will give an overview and general understanding as well as visiting an important battle sites where the Allies landed on the morning of June 6th, 1944 We start our D-Day tour from Bayeux as it is the most central town to the entire D-Day landing area and is situated only 10km south of the coast.</p>	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 10 Thur 27</b>	<p><b>Bayeux</b> This morning we will see the Bayeux Tapestry Listed as a "Memory of the World" by UNESCO, the Bayeux Tapestry is one of the most important illustrated works which have survived from the Middle Ages. The Bayeux Tapestry was probably commissioned in the 1070s by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, half-brother of William the Conqueror. It is over 70 metres long and although it is called a tapestry it is in fact a stitched woolen yarn embroidery on linen. Remainder of the day free.</p>	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 11 Fri 28</b>	<p>Bayeux to <b>Loire Valley</b> 267km <b>2 nights</b></p> <p>The Loire Valley, often called the 'Garden of France' is a charming area of vineyards and rolling green hills dotted with Renaissance chateaux, medieval fortresses, cathedrals and abbeys. It is perhaps its gentle pace of life that has, for centuries, made it a sought-after location for poets and writers</p>	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 12 Sat 29</b>	<p><b>Loire Valley</b> Today we will meander the rolling Loire Valley and visit three selected Chateau and discover the wonderful Renaissance and neo-classical mansions, the St Gatien Cathedral and narrow streets of Tours at the junction of the Loire and Cher Rivers.</p>	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 13 Sun 30</b>	<p>Loire Valley to <b>Turenne</b> 364km <b>1 night</b></p> <p>We will overnight near Turenne, south of Brive in the Limousin region of France Turenne is a pretty village noted as one of the most beautiful villages of France, dating largely from the 13th - 16th centuries, Turenne sits on the edges of a small hill, with some lovely views from the top of the village across the Limousin countryside and forests to the mountains beyond.</p>	<b>BD</b>
<b>OCT Day 14 Mon 1</b>	<p>Turenne to <b>Bordeaux</b> 204km <b>1 night</b></p> <p>Bordeaux is particularly famous for its legendary wine. A prominent port city located on the south-western side of France, Bordeaux is often referred to locally as the 'French Sleeping Beauty'. We hope to organize a wine and cheese tasting this evening.</p>	<b>B</b>

<b>OCT Day 15 Tues 2</b>	Bordeaux to <b>Hondarribia</b> (via Biarritz)- Basque Province Spain 228km <b>2 nights</b> Hondarribia is a small town situated at the far east of the Basque coast. Washed by the Bay of Biscay and the Txingudi Bay (mouth of the Bidasoa River), it is the natural border between France and Spain. Along the walled town's cobbled streets are many emblazoned houses and palaces This town, along with its buildings and old walls, was declared a Historic artistic site.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 16 Wed 3</b>	<b>Hondarribia</b> Free day or visit Saint Jean de Luz 19km One of France's most charming and picturesque beach towns, Saint-Jean-de-Luz is a quiet Basque seaside community located in southwestern France near the Spanish border. In the heart of Basque country and hugging the coast along a sheltered bay, St-Jean-de-Luz boasts a beautiful long sandy beach as well as a great pedestrian shopping area, Basque architecture, delightful town squares. Shop in the covered markets, check out France's largest Basque church or just people watch in the bustling Place Louis XIV.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 17 Thur 4</b>	Hondarribia to <b>Bilbao</b> 119kms <b>1 night</b> Today we visit The renowned Guggenheim Museum, designed by North American architect <b>Frank O. Gehry</b> This is a magnificent example of the most groundbreaking architecture to have come out of the 20th century. The building itself is an innovatively designed architectural landmark that creates a seductive backdrop for the exhibition of contemporary art.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 18 Fri 5</b>	Bilbao to <b>Sallies de Bearn</b> 215km <b>1 night</b> We will overnight at the small village midway between the Basque coast and the Pyrenees.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 19 Sat 6</b>	Sallies de Bearn to <b>Carcassonne</b> 339kms <b>2 nights</b> Carcassonne, situated on the Aude River and the Canal du Midi, is a fortified medieval walled city in southwestern France. It was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. Carcassonne is essentially a castle that is also a city (La Cité de Carcassonne) around which the modern city, or Ville Basse, grew. The Cité de Carcassonne's double row of fortified walls run almost two miles long and has 56 imposing watchtowers. Carcassonne is famous for mouth watering Cassoulet.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 20 Sun 7</b>	<b>Carcassonne</b> We will have a guided walking tour of the old city this morning. This afternoon we will have a 1.45 hr river cruise. This cruise will take us into a charming and quiet atmosphere along 12 kms of the banks of the Canal. During this tour you will cross a lock dated back the 17th century, the Lena bridge and the small botanic garden- épanchoir of Foucault.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 21 Mon 8</b>	<b>Carcassonne to Bonnieux</b> 303km <b>1 night</b> Bonnieux is built on a hill in the Luberon region of Provence, about an hour's drive east of Avignon, "Peter Mayle country". Bonnieux is one of the finest villages in the area.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 22 Tue 9</b>	Bonnieux to <b>Briançon</b> 246km <b>1 night</b> Briançon, the highest town in Europe, is a great fortress town, walled and fortified built to repel the Austrians. The town has two parts: the <b>lower town</b> is at the junction of the Durance and Guisane rivers, the <b>upper town</b> is the walled area at the top	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 23 Wed 10</b>	Briançon to <b>Turin</b> 112km <b>2 nights</b> Today we have a lovely drive to Turin. We will lunch in a typical Italian roadside family run Hotel/Coffee Bar/Café in Bosselena	<b>BL</b>

<b>OCT Day 24 Thur 11</b>	<b>Turin</b> Today we will enjoy a 1/2 day walking tour of Turin. Famed for its rich Baroque character and many spacious boulevards, Turin has lovely historic arcades, grand architecture and street cafes, and of course is known throughout the world for being the home of the world-famous Turin Shroud which is located within the city's cathedral, the 15th-century Duomo di San Giovanni. However, the Shroud itself is safely locked away and tourists are usually only able to view a large photograph.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 25 Fri 12</b>	<b>Turin - Asti 56 Asti to Chiavari 215</b> <b>2 nights</b> On route we will visit medieval Asti which was once one of the most powerful city-republics of Northern Italy. Today, there are plenty of beautiful buildings for visitors to admire, including many medieval towers and churches. Asti was once known as 'the city of 100 towers'. Chiavari is a beautiful seaside village just 30km from Genoa and an ideal starting point for excursions to an area full of natural attractions and attractive little towns. Our hotel is in the heart of this medieval town centre that dates back more than a thousand years.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 26 Sat 13</b>	<b>Rapallo/Chiavari</b> Your choice today. For a magic day trip take the short train ride to Rapallo and then the ferry to the romantic and petite Portofino. Be sure to visit the Brown Castle in Portofino. For the more adventurous – walk the myriad of paths that link the five villages of the spectacular Cinque Terre, an excursion allowing you to explore vine filled terraces with magnificent views of cliffs and coasts offset against a rich Mediterranean flora and varied fauna, especially birdlife. There is the train if you get tired!	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 27 Sun 14</b>	<b>Chiavari to Lucca 123 km</b> <b>3 nights</b> Lucca is a historic gem of the Tuscany. It has completely retained the original thick Renaissance-era walls around the centro storico. As the wide walls lost their military importance, abruptly ended with the conquering Bonaparte in 1805, no match for his modern might, they became as they are today: a pedestrian only park that rings the city entirely providing a wonderful view of the countryside and city below. Lucca is a perfect place to spend a day wandering its streets, alleys, sights, the Puccini museum and shops and 'walk the walls'. A lovely way to see the city, on and off the walls, is to rent a bicycle.	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 28 Mon 15</b>	<b>Lucca</b> Free day. You may consider taking the 1 1/2hr train ride to Florence for the day.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 29 Tues 16</b>	<b>Lucca</b> Free day to relax and enjoy historic Lucca. Maybe take the short train ride to Pisa to see the famous leaning tower.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 30 Wed 17</b>	<b>Lucca - Siena 106km</b> <b>1 night</b> Half day walking tour of Siena. Remainder of day free.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 31 Thur 18</b>	<b>Siena to Rome 240 km</b> <b>3 nights</b> En-route we will have our lunch stop at the beautiful Toscana village of Pienza.	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 32 Fri 19</b>	<b>Rome</b> The expression " <b>Roma, non basta una vita</b> " ("Rome, a lifetime is not enough") pretty much sums it up. The list of 'must sees' is endless including the Roman Forum, Capitoline Hill - one of the seven hills of Rome, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Pantheon Colosseum, Castel Sant' Angelo, St. Peter's Basilica. Whether you have a passion for mosaics, paintings, sculptures, or martyrs' bones and relics, there are world-class examples of each inside almost every church in the historical centre. Every church in Rome is free.	<b>BL</b>

<b>OCT</b> <b>Day 33</b> <b>Sat 20</b>	<b>Rome</b> Free day - Rome Open Tour is the best way to explore the city at your leisure by hopping on and off as you please and see Rome in your own time. The buses make many stops in the most beautiful, cultural and evocative sceneries of the Eternal city. Tourists have the chance to organize their day in Rome by knowing they can take the double-decker green bus every 15/20 minutes. Loop takes 2 hrs. Another suggestion – The 4 hour escorted bike tour is a great way to see Rome. <a href="http://www.italycruizerbiketours.com">www.italycruizerbiketours.com</a>	<b>BD</b>
<b>Day 34</b> <b>Sun 21</b>	<b>13.55 - Depart Rome TG945</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Day 35</b> <b>Mon 22</b>	<b>5.35 - Arrive Bangkok (BKK)</b> <b>07.55 - Depart BKK TG475</b> <b>21.00 - Arrive SYDNEY</b>	<b>OPTIONAL 2 NIGHT MINIBREAK IN BANGKOK</b>