

Scott McCartney invites you to share

The Colours of Europe

23 Days departing 15 May 2012

- Day 1**
15th May 12
Depart Rockhampton QF2367 @3.20pm
Depart Brisbane EK435 @ 8.45pm
- Day 2**
16th May 12
Arrive Amsterdam EK147 @ 1.30pm
 Met at Airport by Albatross Guide, transferred to Hotel
 Orientation city tour & Canal Cruise.
Stay 2 nights Mercure Aan de Amste, AMSTERDAMI (D)
- Day 3**
17th May 12
Amsterdam
 Morning to the north of Amsterdam to visit and Zaans Schaans (great village with surroundings of windmills – essentially a shorter photo stop) and then early lunchtime at Volendam (pretty picturesque fisherman’s port)
 Afternoon free in Amsterdam.
Dinner tonight is out locally and at passenger expense. (B)
- Day 4**
18th May 12
Venlo Region/Floriade
 Via Het Loo for the Palace and gardens – morning visit. Include entrance.
 Afternoon The Floriade – including entrance.
Stay 1 night NH Hotel Geldrop, GELDROP (B,D)



- Day 5**
19th May 12
Venlo Region/Floriade
 Morning at The Floriade - including entrance (B,D)
 Embark **MS Royal Crown River Cruise** – Amsterdam 1700
Stay 7 nights MS Royal Crown www.msroyalcrown.com
- Day 6**
20th May 12
MS Royal Crown River Cruise - Cologne 1500-2300
Cologne Panorama Tour (3 Hours)
 Cologne was built on grounds that are steeped in history. The cathedral with its two spires mounting up to 157 meters each, has been the city's most famous landmark for centuries. Numerous cultural monuments from the past 2,000 years, such as the famous Roman Dionysus mosaic, the medieval Overstolzenhaus and the Gürzenich Hall, as well as modern structures such as the opera house (1957) and the Media Park (from 1989 onwards) are found the city. Join a panoramic tour that includes the best, visiting the famous suburbs by coach and the monuments in the inner city by walk. (B,L,D)

Day 7
21st May 12

MS Royal Crown River Cruise - Koblenz 0900-1300

Koblenz Panorama Tour incl. a visit to Fortress Ehrenbreitstein (3 ½ Hours)
Get to know one of the oldest towns of Germany by taking a guided walking tour around the historical Old Town. The main Highlights are the Monument of Emperor Wilhelm I and the German Corner. Continue your tour back to the pier and board your coach for a short transfer to Fortress Ehrenbreitstein. Originally there had been a castle located at this place but it was blown to pieces in 1801. But as the location was suitable for the defence of Koblenz, a Prussian military fortress was built at the same place. Your return drive includes a brief panoramic drive before the tour ends back at the ship. (B,L,D)

Boppard 1530-0900+

Boppard City Walk (1 ½ Hours)

Join us on a stroll that quickly becomes a walk through history. Directly at the Rhine bank you will pass the mighty looking tollhouse and stronghold of the Electors of Trier. From Prince Elector's Castle they controlled Boppard and the Central Rhineland. Clear traces of the Roman times are also still visible in Boppard. On the edge of the old city the walls of the in 360 AD established Fort Bodobrica still rise up to 9 metres. 28 round towers protected the Roman fort once from the approaching Alemans and Franconians.

Day 8
22nd May 12

MS Royal Crown River Cruise - Rudesheim 1300-2400

Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum in Rudesheim (2 ½ Hours)

A small city train welcomes you at the ship. Enjoy the drive through the picturesque old town of Rudesheim, ending right in front of the Broemserhof. The Broemserhof, past seat of the Broemser, is an ancient noble house of Rudesheim. This historic building is the home to Siegfried's Mechanical Musikkabinett, one of the greatest collections of robotic or automation self-playing musical instrument from the 18th to the 20th century. Enjoy a guided tour through this fantastic museum and don't miss the opportunity to buy some souvenirs at the end. At the end of the tour you may either choose to stay in town or return after some time at leisure by train to your ship. (B,L,D)

Day 9
23rd May 12

MS Royal Crown River Cruise – Speyer 1400-2100

Speyer City Walk (2 Hours)

Let us take you through the history of Speyer. Get to know the old town and its epoques, romantic places, tiny streets, the numerous churches, market square, the town hall, Jewish Courtyard, Old Gate and last but not least the Trinity Church. The Church is not open to public and can only be visit on a guided tour. Afterwards enjoy a private look at the Cathedral of Speyer. The imperial church is one of the largest and most significant Romanesque edifices in Germany. It was built by the German emperors. Construction began around 1030 under the Salic Emperor Konrad II and it was consecrated in 1061. (B,L,D)

Day 10
24th May 12

MS Royal Crown River Cruise - Strasbourg 0900-1900

Strasbourg Panorama Tour (3 Hours)

After a short transfer your panoramic tour of Strasbourg starts with the Cathedrale de Notre Dame soars. The Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame soars over Strasbourg's old town, built from 1190 - 1439. It stands on the site of a roman temple and is the highest medieval building in Europe with a height of 142 m. After a brief inside view enjoy the lovely area round the cathedral, explore the market area and the souvenir shops in your free time before your walking tour continues to Place Gutenberg, Church St. Thomas to your final walking destination, the charming area of Petite France. Re-board your coach for a panoramic drive to explore the modern part of Strasbourg. Pass sights like the European Parliament. Other major highlights are the Orangerie, the EU Parliament and Place Republique before your tour concludes back at the harbour. (B,L,D)

Day 11
25th May 12

**MS Royal Crown River Cruise - Basel 0600-0700+
Black Forest Tour (8 Hours)**

Following the Rhine north into France, we spend the morning in postcard perfect Colmar. Brightly painted, half-timbered houses on narrow, twisting lanes make a perfect backdrop. The River Lauch winds its way through the centre, known as the Little Venice district. Your afternoon will be spent in the capital of the Black Forest – the gothic city of Freiburg. Sensitively restored, Freiburg is one of the most charming of German cities, located where the Black Forest meets the Rhine Plain. Arcaded shopping streets and little streams lead through the old town to its great gothic cathedral. The Black forest is also famous for its cake and wood carved cuckoo clocks. (B,D)

Day 12
26th May 2012

Disembark MS Royal Crown River Cruise – Basel 0700

Drive to Lake Constance and spend half the day on the Flower Island of Mainau. Ferry across to Meersberg and continue to Bavaria. Heading south-east we soon arrive on the western shore of Lake Constance. Crossing a short causeway we visit the Flower Island of Mainau where a local guide leads us through the 111 acres of beautiful gardens and landscaped grounds. Originally created nearly 200 years ago by Prince Nikolaus these magnificent botanical gardens also boast an arboretum and an Italian rose garden complete with pergolas, sculptures, fountains and 500 varieties of roses. In summer it is splendid with its Rhododendrons along with huge displays of over 350,000 flowers.

In the afternoon we will catch the ferry across Lake Constance to Meersberg and drive to the edge of the Bavarian Alps. Here, in the tiny village of Hohenschwangau, you will stay the next three nights in a wonderful setting. On one hill overlooking the village you have the neo-gothic castle of Hohenschwangau and on the other side above the village is a wooded mountain spur and Neuschwanstein - the fairytale castle of 'mad' King Ludwig. The remainder of the afternoon is free to settle into your hotel, enjoy a drink on the sun terrace or take a walk around the beautiful 'Swan Lake' nearby."
Stay 3 nights Muller Hogenschwangau Hotel, HOGHENSCHWANGAU (B,D)

Day 13
27th May 2012

Hohenschwangau in Bavaria

A very relaxing day as we visit perhaps the most famous castle in the world – the fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle. A horse and buggy will pick you up outside your hotel and take you up the wooded road to enjoy a guided tour through the state rooms, king's apartments, halls and throne room; all reminiscent of a Wagner operatic saga. Lunchtime will be spent in nearby Fussen and later in the afternoon we will take a cable car ride up to Tegelberg to take in the excellent views down onto the fairytale castles far below. (B,D)



Day 14
28th May 2012

Hohenschwangau in Bavaria

There's nothing quite like a day in the mountains! Our first stop is at the village of Oberammergau with its ornately painted buildings where the famous Passion Play is performed every ten years. Next we visit Kloster Ettal. This monastery, set in a lovely shaded valley, dates back over 700 years and is one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in existence. Highlight of our day will be our afternoon visit to nearby Linderhof, an extravagant French Rococo Palace - yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. The Venus Grotto reproduces a set from Wagner's Tannhäuser, and the Moorish Pavilion shelters the Peacock Throne. (B,D)

- Day 15**
29th May 2012 **To Grindelwald**
Head for Switzerland and reach Luzern around midday (277 kms)
Spend lunchtime and afternoon until about 4.00 – 4.30 p.m. here.
Then continue a further 74 kms deep into the Bernese Oberland to Grindelwald
Stay 2 nights Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, GRINDELWALD (B,D)
- Day 16**
30th May 2012 **Grindelwald**
Free day. As a great fan of Switzerland have left this day free to enjoy the tranquility of such a beautiful setting. The village of Grindelwald is set in Berner Oberland a walkers paradise, at the base of the Alps (B,D)
- Day 17**
31st May 2012 **To Beaune**
Leave Grindelwald, cross through the back via Zweissman and Gstaad and cut by the Diablerets mountain range, past Chateau D'Eeux to Gruyere for a morning stop.
Then on to Vevey for lunchtime. (Charlie Chaplin's old town).
Then follow the shores of Lake Lemman (Lake Geneva) along the shoreline to Nyon (the first section of this drive is so dramatic with the terraced vineyards it is actually World Heritage listed). At Nyon we cut across to Beaune.
Stay 2 nights Hotel Henry II , BEAUNE. (B,D)
- Day 18**
1st Jun 2012 **Beaune**
This morning we visit the fascinating Hospices de Beaune (entrance included). Covered with multi-coloured glazed roof tiles the 'Hotel Dieu' was built over 550 years ago to help the town's folk in a time of poverty and famine. (B,D)
- Day 19**
2nd Jun 2012 **To Paris**
Morning travel to Paris, via a stop in Barbizon for lunchtime. This afternoon we travel on to Paris. On arrival we are joined by an expert guide for a Paris panoramic city tour which will bring alive the city; from the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysées and Arc de Triomphe to the Louvre and Notre Dame. (First night -Optional Tour Moulin Rouge)
Stay 2 nights Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel, PARIS (B,D)
- Day 20**
3rd Jun 2012 **Paris**
This morning you take a guided tour through Louis XIV's magnificent Palace of Versailles, where the Versailles Treaty, which brought World War 1 to an end, was signed. The gardens are world famous. The royal state rooms, with the 'Sun Kings' Hall of Mirrors, are extraordinary. Your afternoon will be free to explore the shops, cafes, museums and grand boulevards that Paris is famous for. In the early evening we will enjoy a cruise along the River Seine and see Paris' major landmarks bathed in glorious light.
Later we have included a farewell meal in a local restaurant. (B,D)
- Day 21**
4th Jun 2012– **Paris (B) Transfer to the airport**
Depart Paris **EK74 @2.30pm**
Arrive Dubai **@11.59pm**
Stay 1 night, DUBAI (B)
- Day 22**
5th Jun 2012 **Depart Dubai** **EK343 @10.25am**
- Day 23**
6th Jun 2012 **Arrive Brisbane** **@6.40am**
Arrive Rockhampton **QF2356 @10.25am**

*Scott McCartney as your host has travelled extensively in Europe, and has compiled an Itinerary that embraces the very best that Europe has to offer. This trip has been designed to coincide with the Floriade www.floriade.com, a floral event held once every 10 years in Holland; this complimented by a magnificent Rhine River Cruise, the Majestic Swiss Alps and culminating in Paris makes for an enviable experience.
Please direct your enquiries to Scott McCartney on **49222200** or scott@specialty.travel*



Tour Inclusions:

- Return Economy Class Flights Rockhampton to Brisbane
- Return Economy Class International Flights with Emirates Airlines
- Airport Transfers and Taxes
- 7 Night River Cruise on MS Royal Crown
- 12 Nights Albatross Coach Tour
- 1 Night Dubai Stopover
- Tour Excursions as per the Itinerary including 2 Half Day sessions Floriade
- 20 Breakfasts, 18 Dinners , Inflight Meals
- All Tipping and Gratuities, Porterage throughout
- Information & Orientation Night

Please Note: Specialty Travel reserves the right to alter or deviate from the tour Itinerary should circumstances dictate. Coach use is subject to EU Regulations.

Travel Insurance is not included but is required for all passengers. **Please ask for a quote!!!**

TOUR COST: FROM \$11,450 Per Person (Twin Share)
(plus \$ 1550 single supplement)

\$1000 per person Deposit is required to reserve your seat on this tour

Terms & Conditions

Specialty Travel reserves the right –

To vary the itinerary in anyway at anytime it deems necessary.

To amend the price subject to any changes imposed by other operators and carriers included in the itinerary. The operation and provision of services from other operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operations and no responsibility is taken by Specialty Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service.

To cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control that in the opinion of the company would adversely effect the operation of the tour.

The company accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal belongings and suggests that suitable insurance be attained for protection of the same.

The company does not accept responsibility or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connection tours operated by this company.

Fares & Payments:

Fares quoted are subject to alteration. However no change will be made after the final balance has been paid. A deposit of \$1000 per person is required to confirm your booking with the balance due 90 days prior to departure. (Be advised your booking is not guaranteed until we receive your deposit)

Price: The advertised price is in Australian dollars and is based on a Deluxe Cabin on the MS ROYAL CROWN includes security & local taxes as per the itinerary. The price based on minimum passenger numbers and in order for the tour to operate these passenger numbers must be met.

Cancellations (Specialty Travel): Cancellation fees may be levied in accordance with notice given.

More than 90 days prior to departure loss of deposit.

Between 90 Days and 60 Days 50% of total tour cost.

Between 60 days and day of departure 100% of total tour cost

Cancellations/Refunds (International Airlines)

No Show fee: AUD200.00 per person on outbound sector. Refund fee: After ticket issue, a cancellation fee of AUD200.00 per adult plus applicable processing fee of Ticketing Agent applies. In addition - a refund processing fee of AUD100.00 per ticket will also apply if refund is processed by a Emirates Airlines.

Partially used ticket: No Refund

Changes & Alterations:

Prior to departure: Changes to outbound international sector will require the whole itinerary to be reassessed and any additional fare/tax/fee to be charged. Other sectors may be altered within the ticket validity and subject to availability with a fee of AUD100.00 per person per transaction. Changes that require reissue of the ticket for name correction (i.e. name spelt incorrectly) will incur a fee of AUD55.00 per person.

Rerouting is not permitted.

After departure: Reservations may be altered within the ticket validity and subject to availability with a fee of AUD100.00 per person per transaction.

Rerouting is not permitted.

Baggage Allowance: Porterage of one suitcase per person is included in the tour price for arrival & departure from hotels in Europe. Due to limited coach capacity the sum of the length, width & depth of the case should not exceed 160cm (63 inches), and weight should not exceed 20kg (44 Lbs). Charges may be levied in the event these limits are exceeded & the promise to transport you may be invalidated.

Rooming Arrangements: Please note that single accommodation is usually limited at most hotels and cannot be guaranteed. Occupying a single room either by choice or circumstance is subject to the applicable supplement. Accommodation: Wherever possible, rooms are self-contained with private bathroom, colour television, tea and coffee making facilities and heating/air conditioning.

Inclusions: All Gratuities are prepaid and Inclusions for each tour are shown on the itinerary. As a general rule, tours include dinner, bed, breakfast and entry fees to various attractions and cruises etc. Meals included are identified by the symbols, B = Breakfast, L =Lunch, D = Dinner.

Exclusions: Passports and visa fees, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary.

Documentation: Approximately 3 weeks prior to departure from Australia, documentation will be received by your travel agent including International air tickets (if applicable), a tour itinerary, a full Hotel list. Any changes to departure details and times will be advised also.

Departure: Passengers are requested to ready for departure at least 60 minutes (Domestic) and 120 minutes (International) prior to departure time.