



Education
First
**College
Break**

**AMSTERDAM, PARIS & LONDON
NEW YEAR'S**

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11 DAYS

Netherlands // France // England

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare
- Hotels
- Travel between cities
- Welcome dinner
- Farewell drink
- Breakfast daily
- Full-time tour director
- Walking tours
- Sightseeing tours
- Entrances to select attractions

Itinerary subject to change



DAY 1 FLIGHT

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO EUROPE

DAY 2 AMSTERDAM

ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM • Welcome to Amsterdam! There's so much to love about Amsterdam, from the canals to the Van Gogh to the legendary laid-back attitude. After clearing customs, you'll meet your full-time tour director and the rest of your group.

WALKING TOUR OF AMSTERDAM • Get your bearings on a walk around town with your tour director. Amsterdam draws lots of tourists and backpackers from all over the world, but it's still quintessentially Dutch. Expect tall skinny houses, tulips in the window boxes, and people on bikes everywhere you look.

DAY 3 AMSTERDAM

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF AMSTERDAM (TOUR DIRECTOR)

• Your tour director will lead a sightseeing tour of Amsterdam. Get a feel for the city's history and unique culture as you walk through busy Dam Square. Then take in scenic views of the Amstel River before finishing up in Rembrandtplein, a bustling square packed with outdoor cafés, shops and clubs.

ANNE FRANK HOUSE • Walk through the rooms where young Anne lived in hiding and penned her famous diary. Anne lived here between 1942 and 1944.

WELCOME DINNER • Get to know the other travelers in your group over tonight's included dinner.

DAY 4 AMSTERDAM

FREE DAY IN AMSTERDAM • Top 5 suggestions:

- 1. Van Gogh Museum** • Get lost in this goldmine of works by the troubled artist, including many of his most famous.
- 2. Bike riding** • Do as the Dutch do and explore the streets on a bicycle; you can find rental shops all over town.
- 3. Vondelpark** • Relax on the grass, hang out by the pond, throw a frisbee.
- 4. Jordaan** • This trendy university area has narrow winding streets lined with bars, shops and cafés.
- 5. Shopping along Nieuwendijk** • Pick up souvenirs or the latest Dutch fashions on this main shopping drag.

Top 5 nightlife suggestions:

- 1. Leidseplein** • This main street and those around it are filled with pubs and bars.



2. Boom Chicago • Have some laughs at this English-language comedy venue known for its live shows and video productions.

3. Escape • This late-night dance club attracts a young crowd. Don't show up before 11.

4. Club Mazzo • Come here for live music; it's a great place to catch up-and-coming bands before they make it big.

5. Melkweg • This unique venue combines a club, gallery, cinema, café and concert hall all in one.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for Amsterdam at efcollegebreak.com.)

DAY 5 BRUSSELS • PARIS

TRAVEL VIA BRUSSELS • On the way to Paris, stop in the capital of Belgium for a quick visit and time to eat lunch (the waffles are awesome). Then it's on to France.

ARRIVE IN PARIS • Welcome to Paris. The French capital is visited by more than 30 million people a year, drawn by the famous monuments, the great food, and some of the world's best art museums. Drink some wine, have some cheese, and see the newest fashions before anyone else does.

FREE TIME PARIS (night) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Moulin Rouge • See an old-timey burlesque show in this legendary Parisian cabaret.

2. Buddha Bar • This super-hip lounge is most famous for its DJ's popular compilation CDs.

3. Wine and cheese • Hang out by the Seine with a bottle, a baguette and some brie.

4. Caveau de la Huchette • This friendly café has excellent jazz music and is free to get in.

5. St. Michel • Young people and tourists like this area for bar hopping and picking up late-night kebabs.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for Paris at efcollegebreak.com.)

DAY 6 PARIS

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF PARIS (LOCAL GUIDE) • Go on a sightseeing bus tour around Paris. A local guide will tell you all about the city as you see its most well-known sights. Drive down the Champs-Élysées and see the Arc de Triomphe. You'll also stop at the Eiffel Tower to take some photos. The Tower was built in 1889 for the World's Fair and was supposed to be torn down afterwards—when they realized

it could be used for radio communication, they decided to keep it.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO VERSAILLES (extra cost) • Spend the afternoon at the over-the-top palace of Louis XIV. Not far from Paris, this is where French royalty reveled in their extravagant lifestyle in the decades before the Revolution. At one point, a thousand nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants lived in the annexes. Walk through the landscaped gardens, tour the State Apartments of the King and the Queen, and see the Hall of Mirrors.

EVENING SEINE CRUISE AND EIFFEL TOWER • Float past Notre Dame Cathedral and under some of Paris's famous bridges. Then go up to the top of the most famous tower in the world for panoramic views of the city all lit up at night.

DAY 7 PARIS

WALKING TOUR OF PARIS • Take a walk around town with your tour director. Go through the Latin Quarter, an area packed with French college students, and make your way along the Seine. Check out *les bouquinistes*, the little stalls that sell old books, maps, art prints and postcards.

LOUVRE MUSEUM • The world's most famous museum was actually once a royal palace. The museum is huge—you could spend days wandering the halls looking at the priceless works of art. Today you'll hit all the highlights, including the *Venus de Milo* and the always popular *Mona Lisa*.

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL • Go inside the famous medieval cathedral, which was built over the course of 200 years. You have to be impressed by the giant stained-glass windows and the seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

FREE TIME PARIS (day) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Musée d'Orsay • See masterpieces by Monet, Van Gogh, and many more.

2. Champs-Élysées • The famous boulevard is best known for its shopping and unbeatable people-watching.

3. Arc de Triomphe • Built to commemorate Napoleon's Grande Armée, this famous arch has amazing views.

4. Père Lachaise Cemetery • Pay your respects to many famous figures, including Marcel Proust and Jim Morrison.

5. Montmartre • This cool artists' haven at the top of a hill has amazing views and the unique Sacré Coeur church.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for Paris at efcollegebreak.com.)

DAY 8 LONDON

EUROSTAR TRAIN TO LONDON • Ride a high-speed train under the English Channel to London. What can you say about London? It's huge, it's multi-cultural, and it's brimming with famous sights, fun pubs, great music venues and endless things to do.

WALKING TOUR OF LONDON • Get to know London on an informal walk around town with your tour director. Walk along the banks of the River Thames and head to Trafalgar Square, once famous for its huge pigeon population. Continue to bustling Leicester Square, a popular hangout filled with restaurants and clubs. Then make your way to fashionable Covent Garden, a busy shopping area where street performers entertain the crowds.

DAY 9 LONDON

HOP-ON, HOP-OFF DOUBLE-DECKER BUS TOUR • See London at your own pace from a double-decker bus. For 24 hours you can get off and back on whenever you want. Tour routes take you to all the big sights, including St. Paul's Cathedral and Tower of London. You'll also cruise by Piccadilly Circus, Whitehall and Trafalgar Square, as live commentary tells you all there is to know about the city.

FREE TIME LONDON (night) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. West End Theatre district • Catch a play in London's version of Broadway.

2. Soho • This lively part of town is famous for its nightlife, with pubs, clubs, live music—whatever you're looking for.

3. Comedy Store • Laugh till you can't anymore at the heart and soul of the UK comedy scene.

4. Fabric • A huge underground dance club with three dance floors, plus some mellower spaces.

5. Shepherd's Bush Empire • This popular music venue has seen the likes of Björk, Cold War Kids and Cee Lo Green.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for London at efcollegebreak.com.)

DAY 10 LONDON

FREE TIME LONDON (day) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Covent Garden • Seek out bargains at this bustling covered market; souvenirs, clothes, crafts and much more.

2. Tower of London • Trace England's bloody history and see the legendary Crown Jewels.



3. Abbey Road • Probably the world's most famous cross-walk, it's a must-see for any Beatles fan.

4. Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum • Be amazed by frighteningly real wax dummies of your favorite celebrities and historical figures.

5. Tate Modern • Visit one of the world's premier modern art museums to see Picassos, Warhols, Dalís and more.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for London at efcollegebreak.com.)

FAREWELL DRINK • Share some last laughs (and maybe shed a few tears) over a farewell drink with the group.

DAY 11 LONDON

FLIGHT HOME

DON'T WANT TO GO HOME?

Plan beforehand, and you can change your return ticket and explore more of London on your own, or visit another city and fly home from there. Contact us for details.