

## INSIGHT VACATIONS European Affair & Chelsea Flower Show - 9 Nights

### Day 1: ARRIVE LONDON

On arrival, you are transferred to your hotel where the rest of the day is at leisure to relax or explore London.

This evening join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a welcome drink and trip briefing at your hotel before enjoying a delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Thistle Marble Arch

Included Meals: Dinner with Wine

### Day 2: CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Enjoy a full day to experience the famous Chelsea Flower Show – the ‘mecca’ of all garden shows. A transfer in the morning takes you to the famous show!

The Chelsea Flower Show will bring together the very best show gardens, flowers, and gardening from around the world. You will see magnificent floral displays, model gardens, English garden tools and a host of garden structures and artefacts.

This afternoon a transfer back to your hotel is provided.

Accommodation: Thistle Marble Arch

Included Meals: Breakfast

#### **Insight Experiences:**

Experience the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show, an inspiring and enjoyable showcase of fabulous floral displays and cutting-edge garden design. Immerse yourself in colour and ingenuity as you enjoy the very best show gardens, flowers, and gardening from around the world.

### Day 3: LONDON TO AMSTERDAM

Today, travel from London to Amsterdam via Calais.

In Amsterdam, cruise along the old waterways, discovering the architectural gems of the old city, including mansions dating from the Golden Age of the 17th Century.

Accommodation: Jakarta by Westcord Hotel or Hyatt Regency Hotel Amsterdam

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

#### **Top Rated Highlights:**

*Amsterdam Canal Cruise*

Canal cruise passing through colourful houses in Amsterdam, Netherlands

#### Day 4: MONNICKENDAM

Journey through the polder landscape to visit Monnickendam.

Along the way, visit a rustic cheese workshop to learn the secrets of the dairy industry and witness the ancient art of clog making.

Accommodation: Jakarta by Westcord Hotel or Hyatt Regency Hotel Amsterdam

Included Meals: Breakfast

**Insight Experiences:**

Monnickendam Cheese Workshop and Clog Making Demonstration

#### Day 5: AALSMEER AND BRUGES

Experience the excitement at the very epicentre of the international flower trade! Each day, over 19 million flowers are sold at 'Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer', the world's largest flower auction. Witness all the action from a specially designed viewing gallery as traders bid against the clock for a mind-blowing assortment of blooms. A unique experience you'll remember forever!

Meet your Local Expert from Bruges for a stroll along cobbled streets, lined with high-gabled houses from the 16th century. Visit the Market Square dominated by the 83-meter medieval bell tower, The Belfry of Bruges. Explore Burg Square with its ornate Gothic town hall and glorious frescoes on the walls of the Holy Blood Chapel, followed by a relaxing canal cruise before finishing the day off at the local restaurant.

Accommodation: Duke's Academie Hotel or Hotel De Tuilerieen

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Top Rated Highlights:**

*Aalsmeer Flower Auction in Amsterdam, Netherlands*

The colossal Aalsmeer Flower Auction is the size of 200 football pitches and even has its own fire brigade, hairdresser and bicycle repairman! Over 30,000 species are featured, with 43 million flowers and 5 million plants are sold daily Monday to Friday. The most popular varieties are roses, tulips and chrysanthemums.

*View to Belfort tower in market square, Bruges, Belgium*

Visit the Market Square and famous belfry of the Market Hall with your Local Expert. See the Gothic town hall in Burg Square and the frescoes on the walls of the Holy Blood Chapel.

#### Day 6: BRUGES AT LEISURE

With your free day perhaps explore magical Bruges by Horse and Carriage? Don't forget to try some of the tempting chocolates or beers for which Belgium is renowned.

Accommodation: Duke's Academie Hotel or Hotel De Tuilerieen

Included Meals: Breakfast

### Day 7: MONET'S GIVERNY TO PARIS

Visit the house and famous gardens of the Impressionist painter Claude Monet. His passion was his garden, which is kept alive in the same tradition and is home to famous ponds with water lilies.

You have time to explore the gardens before departing for Paris, the City of Light.

Accommodation: Le Méridien Etoile

Included Meals: Breakfast

#### Top Rated Highlights:

*Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny, France*

Visit the fascinating house and gardens where Claude Monet, the Master of Impressionism, lived and worked from 1883 until his death in 1926. Revel in an oasis of color, both within the house and in the fragrant gardens.

### Day 8: LOIRE VALLEY EXCURSION

*Loire Valley Excursion – from Paris to Chenonceaux and Chambord*

The stunning Loire Valley is world-famous for its magnificent Chateaux, as well as beautiful landscapes and delicious wine. Visit two of the most famous Chateaux and be transported back in time as you explore them and their gardens.

Chenonceau Castle, known as the 'Ladies' Chateau', perfectly embodies the elegance of 16th century design in the Loire Valley. Chateau de Chambord, is an awe-inspiring Renaissance chateau inspired by Leonardo de Vinci.

As evening descends, the City of Light lives up to its name as the monuments and buildings are lit up in all their glory. For that special touch of excitement and glamour don't miss the chance to join an Optional Experience to one of the world-famous cabaret shows.

Accommodation: Le Méridien Etoile

Included Meals: Breakfast

#### Top Rated Highlights:

*Loire Valley Excursion, France*

The stunning Loire Valley is world-famous for its magnificent Chateaux, as well as beautiful landscapes and delicious wine. Visit two of the most famous Chateaux: Chenonceau Castle, and Chateau de Chambord, and be transported back in time as you explore them and their gardens.

### Day 9: VERSAILLES AND PARIS

Visit the Château de Versailles, one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th century French art. This former royal residence is world renowned for its architecture, grandeur, and extravagant gardens.

With a Local Expert, explore the iconic sights and streets of Paris. See famous landmarks including Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, and the facades of the Louvre. Stroll the banks of the River Seine and admire romantic bridges, and enjoy a drive along the Champs Elysée's to the Arc de Triomphe.

You are in for a memorable evening starting with a delicious Celebration Dinner serving delicious French cuisine and wine. Perhaps this evening experience an optional Seine Cruise and Illuminations tour?

Accommodation: Le Méridien Etoile

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Top Rated Highlights:***Château de Versailles, Versailles, France*

Visit the Château de Versailles, one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th century French art. This former royal residence is world renowned for its architecture, grandeur and extravagant gardens.

*See the Top Sights of Paris*

Explore the iconic sights and streets of Paris. See famous landmarks including Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower and the facades of the Louvre. Stroll the banks of the River Seine and admire romantic bridges, and enjoy a drive along the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

**Day 10: FAREWELL PARIS**

Your memorable journey comes to an end as you bid your Travel Director farewell.

Transfers arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08.30 and 11.00.

Included Meals: Breakfast