



ENSEMBLE® HOT LIST

Top Picks in Europe



How do you pick just a few highlights from the rich tapestry of travel experiences found in Europe? It's tough, but I've tried to pluck some travel plums from this continental pie. Whether it's your first time or your twentieth, Europe is a vibrant destination with a great deal to offer. Here are just a few favourites:

Chris Robinson

IRELAND: SHINING RING OF KERRY



A special place in a special country: this day-long circle of mountain, moor and lake is bounded by the most spectacular seascape imaginable. We talk of shining seas in Canada, but when the sunshine glances over the Atlantic Ocean here, it shimmers amidst long, rolling breakers, tiny islets and perfect bays. The air positively vibrates on the sea breezes. And then the next dark shower races across the landscape. Exquisite!

Go with Globus on their 13 day Scenic Ireland tour

SCOTLAND: HOMECOMING 2014



This year is a special time to visit Scotland as it welcomes the world to join in a celebration of everything Scottish. Whether you have Scots in your family tree or not, there are so many events and activities happening - many very family friendly - that you will need to plan your time carefully to take advantage of the best. Like the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup, mouth-watering food and drink and spectacular arts, culture and ancestral heritage to explore.

Go with Air Canada Vacations from most Canadian Gateways

SPAIN: THE ALHAMBRA - EUROPE'S TAJ MAHAL



Sit on a bench in a garden of paradise - a lush green space that captivates the senses. The scents of the flowers waft on the early evening breeze. Fountains splash in the linked pools filled with water from the slopes of the Cerro del Sol Mountains - of which there are breathtaking views. These were the pleasure gardens of the medieval Muslim rulers of Southern Spain. They are called the Generalife and are part of the uniquely beautiful Alhambra Palace complex in Grenada in Andalusia.

Go with Insight Vacations' 10 day **Highlights of Spain** tour



PARIS: TOWERING ROMANCE



Any overview of top picks in Europe has to include Paris, the most romantic city not only in Europe, but the world. This is a city to take your time to get to know. No lists of must-see's, no itinerary by the hour. Just a leisurely stroll from one iconic landmark to another - via a café au lait, pain au chocolat and a glass of wine. Or two. And then pair two of the most romantic experiences this City of Romance has to offer: dinner at the Eiffel Tower followed by a romantic evening Seine River Cruise.

*Go with Monograms' **A Week in Paris** package*

LATVIA: THE NEWEST EUO MEMBER



Latvia became the 18th member of the eurozone this year and boasts the best growth rate in the European Union. The country is blossoming and its capital, Riga, is now a cosmopolitan hotspot, easily accessible from Western Europe airports. The historic centre of Riga has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing its medieval cobbled streets, Riga Cathedral, St. Peter's Church and the bustling Central Market. Go now, before it has up-and-come.

*Ask your Ensemble Agent about their **Musical Magical Riga** package*

RIVER CRUISING: FLOATING FAMILIES



Taking the kids on a European tour can be a daunting and exhausting challenge. So go easy on yourself, and make it even more fun for the kids, by touring the heart of Europe on a luxurious river boat cruise. Unpack only once as you travel from Budapest in Hungary to Slovakia, Austria and Germany. Enjoy a range of family activities designed to bring history and culture to life. From medieval games in Devin Castle in Slovakia to soaring over Vienna on the giant ferris wheel in the Prater.

*Go with Tauck Bridges 8 day **Blue Danube Family Riverboat Adventure***

ROMANIA: VAMPIRE VESTIGES



The Central Romanian region of Transylvania is a kaleidoscope of Romanians, Hungarians, Saxons and Roma, rich in legends and folklore. There over two hundred castles and fortified churches - but none more famous than Bran Castle, close to the city of Brasov. This is the much vaunted Dracula's Castle, where Vlad the Impaler, the very real man behind the myth, once roosted. Now wouldn't that impress the Twilight besotted kids?

Ask your Ensemble Agent for a customized tour

GREECE: SIMMERING IN SYMI



There are no sprawling resorts on this Greek island just off the coast of southwest Turkey. Just a few simple accommodations in tiny local hotels and apartments - sprinkled amidst the lovely pastel-coloured mansions that rise above the harbour town of Yialos. Known as 'The Jewel of the Dodecanese', this tiny island is mesmeric. Stay in one of the old mansions on the hill and lose yourself in the maze of pathways and trails as you soak up the heady atmosphere of this whole other world.

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