

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual - Swiss Alps, Venice & Greek Islands Cruise Tour

September 27 - October 14, 2024 (18 Days)

**Tentative Itinerary** 



The Adriatic Sea evokes images of azure waves and cobblestone paths along its storied shoreline. Experience the history, the vibrancy of a culture found nowhere else. Set sail with Collins Tours on our exclusive annual land and cruise vacation sailing aboard the Norwegian Pearl. Stay two nights in the Swiss Alps, two nights in Italy's Lake District, and two nights in Venice before embarking on a beautiful cruise aboard the NCL Pearl. Our a 10-day cruise sails through the Greek Isles with bonus stops in Koper, Zadar, Split and Kotor. Your tour director looks forward to meeting you and providing a smooth and well-executed professional tour!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

#### Day 1 - Friday, Sept 27 - Overnight flight to Zurich, Switzerland

For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air, you will depart from your local airport and meet the Tour Manager and your fellow travelers at Toronto airport for group flight to Zurich. All passengers are flying on Air Canada flights. PLEASE NOTE: Each passenger has 1 piece of luggage included up to 50 lbs each bag, included in the Collins Tours Inclusive Airfare Package. Additional pieces of luggage may require fees paid directly to the airline. Fees will be charged on both the outbound and return flights if applicable. Be sure to have your \*valid passport for Customs & Immigration which you will clear in your final destination, Zurich, and not in Canada.

### Day 2 - Saturday, Sept 28 - Zurich to Lucerne, Switzerland

- Arrive in the Zurich airport 8:00 a.m. local time, the largest airport in Switzerland. After clearing customs, we proceed to the baggage carousel to collect luggage and meet our private deluxe motorcoach for transfer to Lucerne. Enjoy the magnificent drive today through the Swiss Alps and the magical landscape with snow capped peaks and green side pastures. Please collect your own luggage from the baggage carousel. Once we meet our coach, your luggage (1 piece per person) is looked after and will be delivered to your hotel room upon check-in, later this afternoon.
- We expect to arrive late morning into Lucerne, where we meet our local tour guide! We will arrive in Lucerne and begin our tour with an exciting gondola ride to the top of Mount Pilatus. After our time at the summit, where you can have lunch (on own) at the cafeteria, we will descend via cogwheel (included excursion)!
- This afternoon, we check into the 4 Star City Centre Hotel Continental Park where your luggage will be
  delivered to your room. Note: Check in is not guaranteed until 3:00 p.m. Early check in has been
  requested. You will be arriving late afternoon in order to provide adequate time for rooms to be
  ready. If rooms are not ready, you are walking distance to the Train station which has multiple
  shops and restaurants.
- Dinner this evening is on your own with plenty of options just steps away from our hotel.

## Day 3 - Sunday, Sept 29 - Lucerne, Switzerland (B, Welcome D)

- Wake up and enjoy a delicious Swiss breakfast buffet this morning (included).
- After breakfast, meet your tour manager and local guide for a 2-hour guided walking tour of Lucerne (included). After the tour, enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many cafes with free time in the afternoon. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel at a designated time to freshen up before our group dinner!

• This evening, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a Welcome Group Dinner at the fabulous Psistern Zunfthaus restaurant, just a short walk from our hotel. Tonight, you will sample some delectable local cuisine with wine or beer included with meal (included). We will share stories together and discuss further details of our amazing experience through the Alps!

## Day 4 - Monday, Sept 30 - Lucerne - Stresa, Italy (B, Welcome Reception)

• After another delicious Swiss Buffet breakfast this morning, get ready for an exciting journey through the Alps. Travel by premium motor coach to Locarno which is a small, picturesque town on the border of Switzerland and Italy. Enjoy lunch (on own) and some time for shopping before arriving in Stressa. Our hotel, located in Stresa is called the Regina Palace. It is a beautiful 4.5-star hotel across the mountainous border from Switzerland to the Lake District of Italy, Lake Maggiore!



- We expect to arrive at the Hotel Regina Palace late this afternoon. Once again, your Tour Manager will handle check-in for your group and have your luggage delivered to your room all part of the Collins Tours experience! Please note passports are required to be photocopied upon check in. This is part of Italy's regulation process. After check-in, join your fellow passengers for a Welcome Reception!
- The rest of the afternoon and evening are free for you to explore this picturesque area of Italy's Lake District. Excellent shops and restaurants are located within walking distance.

### Day 5 - Tuesday, Oct 1 - Stresa, Italy (B, Group D)

- Wake up this morning and enjoy a delightful Italian buffet breakfast. Today's highlight is our cruise on Lake Maggiore with a local guide, which will visit Isola Bella islands, and offer fantastic views of mountainous backdrops over Italian lakeside villages. We also visit the Borromeo Palace on the island which is now a museum during most the year.
- Tonight, we head to a nearby restaurant for a beautiful authentic Italian 4-course dinner with wine and music **included**! After dinner, you will have plenty of time to relax or explore this beautiful lakeside town.

## Day 6 - Wednesday, Oct 2 - Stresa - Venice, Italy (B, Cocktail Reception)

• Enjoy another Italian buffet breakfast in this stunningly picturesque setting before we depart this amazing lakeside retreat and make our way to Venice.

 Venice is the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region. It is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. The central square, Piazza San Marco contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile bell tower offering views of the city's red roofs.



- Our south-headed drive this morning will take us to Verona where we can enjoy lunch (on own) and shopping. Verona is the setting for the story of Romeo and Juliet.
- Tonight's hotel is on Venice's main island, and we arrive by water taxi, approximately 25 minutes from our departure at Tronchetto station. Please note, your luggage will be taken from the pier side into the water taxi, and then into your hotel all part of your package. Soak in the sea breeze and feast your eyes on one of the world's truly unique and breathtaking cities.
- We expect a late afternoon check-in to the 5-star Splendid Venice Hotel complete with a roof top patio and bar. Enjoy some time to freshen up for your first evening in the stunning "City of Water".
- Join us for a Private Rooftop, cocktail reception at the hotel (included). Hot & cold appetizers and wine or beer included, as we enjoy this beautiful hotel, just 3 min walk to St Marks Square and all the fabulous Italian Shops!

• After the reception, you are free to enjoy the evening as you please. Perhaps a romantic gondola ride is of interest to you? You may want to try an authentic Italian restaurant just steps away from your hotel.

### Day 7 - Thursday, Oct 3 - Venice, Italy (B)

- Enjoy a delightful Venetian buffet breakfast before we depart on our professionally guided sightseeing tour of Venice (included)! Your tour will include walking where 117 islands are connected by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. Highlights include a visit to St. Mark's Square where our local expert takes you on a tour of the Basilica, Doge's Palace, and legendary Bridge of Sighs.
- Our tour guide departs and leaves us for lunch (on own) in any of the many restaurants around St. Mark's Square or adjacent streets. (Please note restaurants located within the square are more expensive than ones located a 5 or 10 min walk away from the square). You will then have time on your own to enjoy some shopping and people watching this afternoon.
- Your evening and dinner is free to enjoy as you wish in this truly spectacular city! Enjoy your last evening in Venice!

### Day 8 - Friday, Oct 4 - Venice, Italy - Trieste Embarkation NCL Pearl (B, L, D)

- Enjoy your final Venetian buffet breakfast before we check-out and enjoy your water taxi transfer back to Tronchetto terminal, before loading our motor coach to take us to Trieste to board our ship.
- Once we arrive at the pier in Trieste, your luggage will be taken by NCL ship staff and delivered to your cabin. We expect to be on board the ship by 1:30 pm, allowing time for lunch on ship.



- All aboard the Norwegian Pearl for your 10-day Greek Isles Cruise. All part of our signature group tour
  experience. Board and enjoy lunch on board the NCL Pearl today after you have completed your
  embarkation. Please note cabins will not be ready until closer to 3:00 p.m. or slightly after. Once on board
  the ship you are free to enjoy complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages as part of your Ultimate
  Beverage Package.
- Refer to ship's daily activity itinerary for entertainment/dining options during your first night aboard the Pearl
- Our cruise sets sail at 8pm!

### Day 9 - Saturday, Oct 5 - Rijeka, Croatia (B, L, D)

- In port 8:00am-5:00pm.
- Rijeka is a city where you can soak up Croatian daily life: You can mingle with locals over a cup of coffee
  or a meal, Rijeka's busy promenade, or shop like a true Rijekan at the lively central market. Situated
  next to the Adriatic, Rijeka is more reminiscent of a Central European city like Budapest or
  Prague, with its striking neoclassical palaces and theatre. And of course, if you need to unwind
  then Blue Flag beaches and their cobalt waters are minutes away.
- Our ship sails at 5:00pm this evening.

## Day 10 - Sunday, Oct 6 - Koper, Slovenia (B, L, D) Optional Excursion TBA

- In port 7:00am-4:00pm.
- Welcome to Slovenia! This seaside town has been settled since the 6<sup>th</sup> century and is full of historic and cultural sites to explore. A day in Koper can include a leisurely walking tour of the old town, a visit to the flea market, shopping on Shoemaker Street, climbing the Bell Tower at Tito Square and a visit inside the Koper Regional Museum. There are plenty of delightful spots to enjoy lunch in the old town or along the harbour.



• This evening is your own, so enjoy the many offerings onboard the ship as we sail towards Croatia.

## Day 11 - Monday, Oct 7 - Dubrovnik, Croatia (B, L, Cocktail Party, Group D)

- In port 11:00am-8:00pm
- Today we are in Dubrovnik, Croatia! Dubrovnik is known for it's stunning beauty, scenic landscapes, rich history and culture and picturesque architecture. Often called the "Pearl of the Adriatic", Dubrovnik is famous for its incredibly well-preserved old town which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also known for its medieval walls, Game of Thrones filming locations and breathtaking Dalmatian coastline.
- Back on board, join your Tour Director and fellow Collins Tours traveling companions in one of the ship's lounges (time and location TBA) for a Collins Tours exclusive cocktail party with open bar (selection of high-end premium drinks are limited) and canapés.
- Following the cocktail party, we will make our way to the main dining room for our Group Dinner. Spend the rest of the evening your way as we sail towards Kotor.

## Day 12 - Tuesday, Oct 8 - Kotor, Montenegro (B, L, D) Optional Excursion TBA

- In port 7:00am-4:00pm.
- Tucked away between the mountains and the Bay of Kotor, one of the most indented parts of the Adriatic Sea, is where you will find the picturesque town of Kotor.
- \*\*\*Optional Collins Tours Shore Excursion PRICING TBD-Limited space available. Join Collins Tours for a 5 Hour tour of Budva & viewing of Sveti Stefan. Join our private coach to the fortified old town and Citadel (entrance included). Our local city guide will explain the history of the churches in the area as well as their well-preserved frescoes and relics. Take time to visit local boutiques or enjoy coffee in one of the squares.
- If you choose to explore this secluded town on your own today, stroll the labyrinth of cobbled streets with cozy cafes and craft shops!
- Enjoy a free evening onboard our ship.



## Day 13 - Wednesday, Oct 9- Corfu, Greece (B, L, Group D) Optional Excursion TBA

- In port 7:00am-3:00pm.
- \*\*\*Optional Collins Tours Shore Excursion PRICING TBD Limited space available. Join Collins Tours again for a 5-hour private Corfu Flavours & Sights Tour. Today we will visit many of the towns and villages that offer spectacular views of the area's bays including a visit to Lakones, a charming village built on the slopes of a mountain. We will stop at one of the islands' Kumquat Distilleries for some sampling and enjoy a 45-minute boat ride to sea caves and the famous Blue Eye (weather permitting).
- Back on board this evening, meet your fellow travelers for a Group Dinner in the main dining room to share stories of your journey thus far as we sail towards Santorini!

## Day 14 -Thursday, Oct 10 - Santorini Island, Greece (B, L, D)

- In port 1:30pm-10:00pm.
- Welcome to Santorini where whitewashed villages clinging to the sides of sea cliffs have made this volcanic island one of the most photographed places in the world.
- Walk the tangled lanes amongst white-washed dwellings overlooking the Aegean Sea, barter with the local vendors, or dine at a cozy cafe, it's up to you. Please note you have a Gondola that takes you from the pier to the top of cliff (extra charge paid locally in Euros) for convenience. Some people can walk down the mountains steep roadway, but



it is recommended to take the Gondola going and returning planning for wait times on the return due to all

- passengers boarding near the same time.
- Tonight, dinner is free to explore your way in Santorini, or perhaps one of the specialty restaurants is on the agenda!

## Day 15 - Friday, Oct 11 - Mykonos, Greece (B, L, Group D) Optional Excursion TBA

- In port 7:00am-3:00pm.
- Welcome to the Cyclades, a group of Greek islands, southeast of the mainland in the Aegean Sea.
- \*\*\*Optional Collins Tours Shore Excursion PRICING TBD Today join your fellow group members for another optional shore excursion for the next 4 hours. First, we will start off with 1 hour city walking tour which includes an opportunity to see the windmills, up-close and personal. You will also visit the village and town streets overlooking the ocean, with glamorous shops and restaurants. The bus tour will include driving to the famous beach of Agios Giannis (from which you can see the sacred island of Delos), St. Stefano beach, Plati Yalos & Kalafatis. In the centre of the island, we visit the traditional village of Ano Mera, where we stop at a local bakery to enjoy some delicacies (not included) and see the



bakery to enjoy some delicacies (not included) and see the famous 350-year-old monastery! We will return to the pier around 1:30 pm.

• Back onboard, join fellow travelers this evening for another Collins Tours Group Dinner in the main dining room.

## Day 16 - Saturday, Oct 12 - At Sea (B, L, D)

- Fun day at sea! Refer to ship's itinerary for the list of today's activities, and all the open restaurants where you can dine complimentary or choose another specialty dining room. The choice is yours!
- Tonight, you may choose to dine in one of the many specialty restaurants on board.
- Tomorrow, our port of call is Split, Croatia with an early morning arriving, so make sure to get some good rest. You don't want to miss this beautiful seaside town tomorrow!

# Day 17 - Sunday, Oct 13 - Split, Croatia (B, L, Farewell D) Optional Excursion TBA

- In port 7:00am 5:00pm.
- Croatia's second largest city along the Dalmatian Coast, Split is a wonderful place to truly see how the locals live. One of the world's most impressive Roman monuments, Diocletian's Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage site that is always abuzz with energy thanks to the dozens of bars, restaurants and shops thriving amid the atmospheric old walls.
- This evening, join the group in the main dining room for our Farewell Dinner where we gather one final time to raise a glass in celebration of our incredible vacation!

### Day 18 - Monday, Oct 14 - Disembark Trieste, Italy Return Flight Home (B)

- This morning we disembark as a group, meet our private motor coach, and make our way to the airport for our return flight home.
- For those who have purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air Package, please meet your tour manager for transfer to the airport.
- If you've arranged airfare on your own, thank you for joining Collins Tours on this epic adventure!

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Tour itineraries are only a guideline and may be modified by your tour manager. Times on tour itineraries are only estimates as various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues, emergencies, and other "Acts of God," can influence tour timing. Collins Tours is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by unforeseen events. No refunds/reimbursements will be offered in the event of any such occurrences.
- ➤ Canadian citizens are required to have a valid passport that is good for at least THREE MONTHS AFTER your departure date. Citizens of other countries should call and verify their required documentation.
- ➤ **Baggage allowance details**: For all Air Canada flights to and from Europe: You are allowed one personal and one carry on item at no charge (max dimension 23 cm x 40 cm x 55 cm). You are also allowed <u>one free checked bag</u> (max weight 23 kg; \$100 fee for overweight bag).
- Euro's can be used for any purchases made off the ship during this cruise tour.
- ➤ Duty Free Rules allow you to claim \$800 per person.
- ➤ Airline fees for any checked baggage overages or additional bags (both outbound and inbound flights) are **NOT** included in your tour package and any additional costs are your responsibility paid directly to Air Canada.
- > All liquids/gels you plan to bring on board an airplane must be 3oz or less and sealed in a Ziploc bag. Once at the security checkpoint, this bag must be removed from your carryon & placed in bin for TSA screening.
- > Prescription medication should be kept in original container or carried with you during travel.
- ➤ Collins Tour is not responsible for lost or stolen baggage and/or personal items.
- > Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet that may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements of any kind or credits, for these potential or actual additional expenses, loss of use, loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.

#### **Hotel Contact Information**

Hotel Continental Park Lucerne: Murbacherstrasse 4, 6002 Luzern, Switzerland, Ph: +41 41 228 90 50

**Hotel Regina Palace:** Corso Umberto I, 29, 28838 Stresa VB, Italy, Ph: +39 0323 936936 **Splendid Venice:** San Marco Mercerie, 760, 30124 Venezia VE, Italy, Ph: +39 041 520 0755

- > REMEMBER: Your Tour Manager handles hotel check in/checkout procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation at events, hotels, ferry terminals, and overall operation of each tour. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his or their experience to the fullest. Gratuities for your Tour Manager and driver are not included in your tour price. Tipping is your way of saying 'Thank You," for a job well done. Here are our guidelines on Tipping Etiquette:
  - Collins Tours Manager Ranging from \$6.00 \$9.00 per person, per day
  - Bus driver \$4.00-\$6.00 per person, per day.
  - Private city tour guides \$3.00 per person, per day

Thank you for traveling with Collins Tours! We look forward to serving you with ALL your future travel plans