

Italian Alps, Tuscany & Greek Islands Tour October 8 – October 25, 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 land and cruise vacation sailing aboard the Norwegian Pearl. Stay two nights in Stresa, two nights in Tuscany, and 1 night in Trieste before embarking on a beautiful cruise aboard the NCL Pearl. Our a 9-N cruise sails through the Greek Isles with bonus stops in Koper, Split Kotor, and Dubrovnik ending with a 2-night stay in Athens, Greece. Your tour director looks forward to meeting you and providing a smooth and well-executed professional tour!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

Day 1 - Tuesday, Oct 8 - Overnight flight to Milan, Italy

• 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 Milan Airport, Italy. 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, Milan, and not in Canada.

Day 2 - Wednesday, Oct 9 - Milan to Stresa, Italy at 5 Star Hotel Regina Palace (Welcome to Italy Light Reception)

• Arrive in the Milan airport **TBA - local time**. After clearing customs, we proceed to the baggage carousel to collect luggage and meet our private deluxe motorcoach for transfer to Stresa. Enjoy the magnificent drive

today through the Italian Alps and the magical landscapes with 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 travel by premium motor coach to Stressa Italy located on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Our hotel is called the Regina Palaces and located in Stresa. It is a beautiful 5-star hotel located on the shore of Lake Maggiore!
- We check into the Hotel Regina Palace late afternoon 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.

- We will enjoy a welcome to Italy light reception upon arrival at the hotel.
- All hotel rooms are lake facing rooms, a signature feature with Collins Tours at this magnificent hotel!

• Dinner this evening is on **your own** with plenty of options just steps away from our hotel in the Italian village of Stresa.

Day 3 - Thursday, Oct 10 - Stresa, Italy (B, Highlight Welcome Dinner)

- Wake up and enjoy a delicious Italian breakfast buffet this morning (included).
- 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 (Palazzo Borromeo) on the island which is now a museum during most the year (**entrance fees included**).
- Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many cafes with free time in the afternoon.
- This evening, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a Highlight Welcome Group Dinner at a restaurant close to the hotel served with wine or beer and local entertainment **(included)**. This dinner is an Italian 5 course dinner like no other, be ready to have some fun. We will share stories together and discuss further details of our amazing experience through the Alps!

Day 4 – Friday, Oct 11 – Stresa to Tuscany, Italy (B, Welcome to Tuscany Cocktail Reception)

- Enjoy a delicious Buffet breakfast this morning, before our exciting journey through the Alps.
- We expect to arrive at the 5-star Grotta Giusti Thermal Spa Resort, an Autograph Collection hotel, late this afternoon. Set just a few kilometers from Florence the Grotta Giusti Thermal Spa Resort is a wellness destination for guests. Guests are accommodated in a 19th century villa where the authenticity of the place is told throughout the original façade, authentic frescos ceilings, paintings and prints of past times. The resort hosts a thermal spa with on-site medical team, best in healing with thermal treatments and personalized consultancy, as well as the biggest natural thermal cave in Europe. Enjoy a steam bath, a 40-acres private park or enchanting outdoor dining. 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 Cocktail Reception with hot/cold appetizers and wine/beer **included**!
- The rest of the evening is free for you to explore (**On own**).

Day 5 - Saturday, Oct 12 - Tuscany, Italy (B, Group D)

- Wake up this morning and enjoy a delightful Italian buffet breakfast.
- Today we will tour one of the many Tuscany Vineyards in the area with wine tasting included (Included **Inclusion for reservations made by July 31, 2023**)
- Tonight, we will gather in the hotel restaurant for a beautiful authentic Italian 4-course dinner with wine included!
- Rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 6 - Sunday, Oct 13 - Tuscany to 4 Star Modernist Hotel Trieste, Italy (B)

- Enjoy another Italian buffet breakfast before we depart and make our way to Trieste.
- Our north-headed drive this morning will take us through Bologna area of Italy and through different vineyards with a lunch stop (**on own**) before arriving in Triste.

- We expect a late afternoon check-in at The Modernist Hotel today. Our hotel is in Corso Italia 12, one of the
- main and elegant streets of the center of Trieste dotted with high-fashion shops, refined cafes and typical Italian restaurants. The main tourist attractions of the center are all within walking distance in a few minutes. It is one of the most characteristic historic buildings of Corso Italia, built by the doctor and philanthropist Gregorio Ananian, with every room furnished in elegance and functionality.
- Enjoy dinner and the remainder of the day on your own (**own expense**).

Day 7 - Monday, Oct 14 - Trieste, Italy - Embarkation to NCL Pearl (B, L, D)

- Enjoy a delightful breakfast and enjoy a relaxed hotel departure before we depart for the pier to check in for our Cruise.
- Once we arrive at the pier in Venice (Trieste), your luggage will be taken by NCL ship staff and delivered to your cabin. We expect to be on board the ship early afternoon.
- All aboard the Norwegian Pearl for your 10-day Venice to Athens 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 8 – Tuesday, Oct 15 – Ravenna, Italy (B, L, D) – Optional Excursion Price TBA

- In port 6:30am-11:00pm.
- Time to get you familiar with this stunning city, today is a free day to explore! ***<u>Optional</u> Collins
 Tours Shore Excursion PRICING TBD
- Enjoy your free evening exploring Venice before returning aboard our beautiful vessel.
- Our ship sails at 7:00pm this evening.

Day 9 - Wednesday, Oct 16 - Koper, Slovenia (B, L, D)

- In port 7:00am-4:00pm.
- Welcome to Slovenia! This seaside town has been settled since the 6th 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 harbor.



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

Day 10 - Thursday, Oct 17 - Split, Croatia (B, L, D)

- In port 7:00am-6:00pm
- Today we are in Zadar, Croatia! Zadar is known for its historic old town where you can find stunning examples of Venetian architecture, medieval churches, a web of narrow marble streets winding around a mix of Roman ruins. With a long history of culinary excellence, there are lots of local dishes to sample in one of



the many European style cafes or family run tavernas.

- 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 11 – Friday, Oct 18 – Kotor, Montenegro (B, L, D) Optional Excursion Price TBA

- In port 7:30am-6:00pm.
- 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.
- ***<u>Optional</u> Collins Tours Shore Excursion PRICING TBD -Limited space available. Join Collins Tours for a 5 Hour optional 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 12 - Saturday, Oct 19 - Dubrovnik, Croatia (B, L, D)

- In port 7:00am-4:30pm.
- Journey into Dubrovnik's historic old town which is enclosed by medieval walls. Learn about the city's origins and developments through the years, and stories of the war of the 1990s. Take a short walk along the walls and admire stunning views of the Adriatic coastline for an unforgettable experience through the landscapes of Dubrovnik.
- Or refer to the ship's itinerary for the list of today's activities onboard the ship.

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Day 13 – Sunday, Oct 20– Corfu, Greece (B, L, Group D) Optional Excursion Price TBA

- In port 7:00am-3:00pm.
- ***<u>Optional Collins Tours Shore Excursion</u> TOUR & PRICING TBD. Join Collins Tours again for a 5-hour private optional 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 time shopping in the old town of Corfu at some of the best leather market stores!
- 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 - Monday, Oct 21 - 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 – Tuesday, Oct 22 – Mykonos, Greece (B, L, Group D) Optional Excursion Price TBA

- In port 8:00am-5:00pm.
- 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 – Wednesday, Oct 23 – Athens (Piraeus), Greece – Disembarkation from NCL Pearl – Athens Marriott Hotel (B)

- Arrive in Port at 5:30am.
- We will enjoy a guided tour in Athens this morning with visits to the Acropolis and Parthenon (Admission and entrance fees included). This tour will provide some highlights of the city of Athens with time for some
 - lunch on your own.
- We will check into the 5-star Athens Marriot Hotel this afternoon. Our hotel is located on the bustling artery of Syngrou Ave and within walking distance of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center and the Athenian Riviera. Enjoy their signature spa treatments, take a seat in the Great Room or the outdoor Atrium and relax into the chic urban setting.



Surround yourself with impeccable views on the E&O Rooftop while relaxing with a cocktail and savouring delicious fusion cuisine.

- Once again, your tour manager will take care of the check-in process and distribute your room keys and have your luggage delivered to your room for you. Note: Check-in is not guaranteed until 3:00 p.m. Early check-in has been requested.
- Enjoy the remainder of the day with dinner on your own and at **your own expense**.

Day 17 – Thursday, Oct 24 – Athens, Greece (B, Farewell D)

- Enjoy a buffet breakfast this morning at the hotel.
- You will have a free morning and afternoon to explore Athens your way today.
- This evening, join the group in the main dining room for our Farewell Dinner with wine included and where we gather one final time to raise a glass of wine or beer in celebration of our incredible vacation! (included)

Day 18 – Friday, Oct 25 – Return Flight Home (B)

- Enjoy breakfast this morning before we 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 inspired 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 Regina Palace	Corso Umberto I, 29, 28838 Stresa VB, Italy	Ph: +39 0323 936 936
Grotta Giusti Thermal Spa Resort	Grotta Giusti 1411, Monsummano Terme, Italy	Ph: +39 0572 907 71
Modernist Hotel	12 Corso Italia, Trieste, 34121, Italy	Ph: +39 040 064 5690
Athens Marriott Hotel	Syngrou Ave 385 17564 Athens, Greece	Ph: +30 21 0947 1000

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

Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd – 303 Westmorland Rd. Saint John, NB – E2J 2G2 www.collinstours.ca (888) 636-8080