



# passports

educational group travel

## 9 Labyrinths, 9 Days France and Italy

*An itinerary prepared for  
Ms. Crystal Dawn Walker  
departing from Portland, OR  
on September 1, 2010  
9 days*



### Basic Inclusions

Services of a specially-trained **passports** courier throughout • Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels • Rooming on a double basis

### Overnights

Paris 1 • Aboard train 1 • Florence 2 • Sorrento 1 • Rome 2

### Meals

All breakfasts

### Transit Summary

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline • Airport arrival transfer on Days 1-2 • Transfer to the train station on Day 3 • Overnight train to Florence on Day 3 • Station arrival transfer on Day 4 • Transfer to the train station on Day 5 • Round-trip train to Ravenna on Day 5 • Station arrival transfer on Day 5 • Transfer to the train station on Day 6 • ES train to Naples on Day 6 • Airport departure transfer on Day 9

### Enrollment Information

#### To enroll by check:

Complete and return the application on page 13 of the Enrollment Guide. Your group leader has one for you. Or, get one from our web site

[www.passports.com/enro](http://www.passports.com/enro).

#### To enroll by credit card:

Visit [www.passports.com](http://www.passports.com) and click the *We're Going* icon. Type your Group Preview Code:

#### **9Labyrinths**

in the box in the upper left labeled *Group Preview*. Click the link in the center of the page that reads *Enroll Online*.

### Labyrinths on itinerary

Paris: Jardin des Plantes  
Chartres labyrinth  
Ravenna labyrinth  
Lucca labyrinth  
Pompeii labyrinths (2)  
Positano labyrinth  
Rome: Castle Sant'Angelo labyrinth  
Palatine labyrinth

#### NOTE:

This itinerary can be an intensive walking tour. All labyrinth walks are optional. Those who opt not to walk the labyrinth(s) will have some free time to plan as they wish with the advice of the courier.

# Tour Highlights

## **Panoramic coach tour of Paris**

### **Excursion to Chartres**

Round-trip train to Chartres  
Visit to Chartres Cathedral  
Chartres Cathedral Headsets  
Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth

### **Overnight train to Florence**

Overnight train Paris-Florence, *couchettes*  
included

### **Professionally-guided walking tour in Florence**

Services of a specially-trained half-day local  
guide in Florence  
Visit to the Accademia  
Visit to Florence's *Duomo*  
Visit to the church of *Santa Croce*  
Visit to Leonardo's Leather Workshop

### **Full-day coach excursion to Lucca**

Visit to Lucca's *Duomo*

### **Excursion to Ravenna**

Round-trip train Florence-Ravenna  
Visits to the Tomb of *Galla Placidia* and the  
Basilica of *San Vitale*

### **Travel to Sorrento via Train to Naples and Travel to Positano**

ES train Florence-Naples  
Sightseeing stop in Positano

### **Travel to Rome via Pompeii**

Visit to the excavated city of Pompeii  
Services of a specially-trained local guide in  
Pompeii  
House of Labyrinth

### **City sightseeing in Rome**

One-day public transportation pass  
Services of a specially-trained full-day local  
guide in Rome  
Full-day whisper headsets  
Visit to *Castel Sant'Angelo*  
Visit to the Treasury of *Castel Sant'Angelo*  
Combination ticket including entrance to the  
Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

### **Entrance to the Borghese Gallery**

# 9 Labyrinths, 9 Days - France and Italy Labyrinths

## DAYS 1-2: ARRIVAL, PANORAMIC COACH TOUR OF PARIS

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris, the "City of Light." Bienvenue!

Settle into your centrally-located hotel, then set out to explore one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

**Panoramic coach tour of Paris** • Begin your explorations of Paris with a panoramic coach tour of the city. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant Opéra Garnier. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*.

**Free time in Paris** • You may want to make your way to the Left Bank and its *Jardin des Plantes*, a botanical garden established in the 17th century. It was later expanded by the 18th-century natural scientist Buffon, who added a Labyrinth still open to visitors (admission to the garden is free).

You may want to head for the Opéra district. There, consider a visit to its centerpiece, now called the *Opéra-Garnier* to distinguish it from its younger sibling, the *Opéra-Bastille*. The tour introduces the grand architecture and interior decoration of the theater (once haunted by a famous Phantom!), including the marvelous ceiling painted by Marc Chagall.

*Overnight: Paris*

## DAY 3: EXCURSION TO CHARTRES, OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO FLORENCE

**Excursion to Chartres** • Board a train bound for Chartres.

The spires of the Chartres Cathedral first come into view, solemnly rising above the wide-open fields of *La Beauce*. Soon, you're facing the most beautiful Gothic structure in Europe, reputed for its stunning stained-glass windows. The cathedral itself *defines* Gothic architecture

and the concept of the flying buttress, which you will see during your visit.

Inlaid on the floor of the nave, you will see the labyrinth that pilgrims used to follow on their knees while praying. If chairs have been removed to make it accessible (usually on Fridays), you may want to follow its unicursal path to the center. As you do so, you will understand why this labyrinth is the most famous and one of the most elaborate of the medieval church labyrinths remaining in Western Europe. Built in 1235, the Chartres labyrinth is also the largest with its 41-foot diameter.

Why not check out the garden labyrinth near the cathedral? From the garden, there's a fine view of the historic center and of the banks of the River Eure.

**Overnight train to Florence** • This evening, pick up the tempo as an overnight train (*couchettes* provided) takes you across the Alps to Italy.

*Meals included: Breakfast  
Overnight: Aboard train*

## DAY 4: FLORENCE CITY



DAY 4: Duomo Santa Maria Del Fiore

## SIGHTSEEING, EXCURSION TO LUCCA

On a city tour of Florence, you'll hear about the Medici family and the art of politics.

A local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Florence, will accompany your group. **Accademia** • A visit is included to the *Accademia*, where you'll admire the best known of all Florentine treasures, Michelangelo's *David*. **Duomo (nave)** • Visit the Cathedral of *Santa Maria del Fiore*, which is better known as the *Duomo*. It is one of the largest cathedrals in the Christian world, yet it was consecrated back in 1436. Marvel at its sumptuous exterior marble decoration and at the works of art it houses. **Santa Croce** • Visit the church of *Santa Croce*, the final resting place of luminaries such as Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. The church is filled with treasures and houses the Pazzi Chapel, a masterpiece by Brunelleschi noted for its original conception and skillful proportions.

**Leonardo's Leather Workshop** • You





DAY 7: Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius

will visit the Leonardo Leather Workshop, where a craftsman will demonstrate steps used in the manufacture of world-renowned Florentine leather goods.

**Excursion to Lucca** • Travel to another medieval town with a rich cultural heritage. The *Città Vecchia* (Old Town), still encircled by three-mile-long ramparts, is brimming with ancient merchant palaces, towers and old shops.

You'll visit the *Duomo*, (Cathedral of San Martino), which contains a painting of *The Last Supper* by Tintoretto and the venerated *Volto Santo*, a Byzantine crucifix that is a masterpiece of Italian funerary sculpture by Jacopo della Quercia.

A stone block inserted on the wall of the *Duomo's* tower bears a carved labyrinth 20 inches in diameter that has been dated back to the 12th century. Pilgrims followed the path of this labyrinth with their finger.

*Meals included: Breakfast on route*  
*Overnight: Florence*

#### DAY 5: EXCURSION TO RAVENNA BY TRAIN

Board a train for the journey to the Adriatic coast and the city of Ravenna,

which was once the capital of the Roman Empire and a favorite of Byzantine emperors.

You'll see evidence of past wealth during visits to the spectacular blue and gold-starred domed Tomb of *Galla Placidia* and the Basilica of *San Vitale*. Dating back to 547 AD, this octagonal basilica is a masterpiece of architecture. Among its outstanding mosaics are representations of Christ the King, the empress Theodora and the emperor Justinian. In *The Divine Comedy*, Dante praised the "symphony of colors" of Ravenna's mosaics.

The Basilica of *San Vitale* is also known for the circular labyrinth, nearly 12 feet wide, that is inlaid on its floor.

*Meals included: Breakfast*  
*Overnight: Florence*

#### DAY 6: TRAIN TO NAPLES, POSITANO, SORRENTO

Today, board a fast ES train bound for Naples, a bustling metropolis with a rich cultural heritage set in magnificent scenery on the Bay of Naples. **Travel to the Amalfi Coast** • Your coach takes you on a splendid ride along the celebrated Amalfi Drive, which twists its way along

steep cliffs that overlook, in the words of John Steinbeck, the "unbelievably blue and green water" of the Gulf of Salerno.

**Positano** • Stop in Positano, once a fisherman's village and now one of the most picturesque and most popular resorts on the coast. You may recognize backdrops from the 2003 film by Audrey Wells, *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

On the landing of the exterior stairs of Positano's Church of *Santa Maria Assunta*, you will see a square mosaic labyrinth about 3 feet wide. **Travel to Sorrento** • Travel to Sorrento, the fabled town of poets and sunsets, also renowned for its embroidery and *intarsia* (wood inlay).

The evening is free to enjoy Sorrento's scenic delights and spectacular views. For the finest overlook of all, go to the *Punta di Sorrento* and watch the sunset from the belvedere.

*Meals included: Breakfast*  
*Overnight: Sorrento*

#### DAY 7: POMPEII, ROME

Head out today for the coach ride to the Bay of Naples.

You will visit the excavated city of Pompeii, another treasure of Western Civilization. See how well-to-do Romans lived 2,000 years ago, until Mt. Vesuvius spoke, at once destroying this city and preserving it for all time. **House of Labyrinth** • Your guide will show you the House of Labyrinth, which takes its name from a floor mosaic labyrinth depicting in its center Theseus and the Minotaur. This is one of two mosaic pavement labyrinths reported to have been found in Pompeii. A labyrinth was also found on a pillar of the House of Marcus Lucretius, which you may see with your guide. **Travel to Rome** • A coach ride up the *autostrada* brings you to the "Eternal City".

Proceed to your centrally-located hotel, settle in and get ready to explore your surroundings.

Plan a visit to the Trevi Fountain, one of Rome's most celebrated sights, which was the terminus of the *Aqua Virgo* aqueduct. The Trevi is at its best at night, when the fountain is illuminated. Throw a coin into the spray to ensure your return to this wonderful city!

*Meals included: Breakfast*  
*Overnight: Rome*

## DAY 8: ROME CITY SIGHTSEEING, BORGHESE GALLERY

A full-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Rome, will accompany your group. **Castel Sant'Angelo** • Visit *Castel Sant'Angelo*. This immense castle was built by the Emperor Hadrian in AD 135 to be his mausoleum and featured a winding ramp 400 feet long. In the Middle Ages, it was transformed into a papal fortress linked to the Vatican by the *Passetto*, a protected passageway. Visitors can see luxurious Papal Apartments, prison cells and a rooftop terrace which offers splendid views of Rome. **Castel Sant'Angelo Treasury** • Your guide will lead you to the Treasury of *Castel Sant'Angelo*, where you will see a floor labyrinth that was created with red and yellow bricks back in 1546. **Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill** • Today you will visit some of the best known monuments of Ancient Rome, including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Once the heart of a vast empire, the Forum was filled with extravagant buildings and crowded with people from all over the known world.

Your combination ticket also allows entrance to the archaeological site on the Palatine Hill. Should time allow, you may want to make your way up the hill to visit the site and its museum. This was the oldest residential area in Ancient Rome.

A labyrinth has been found on the Palatine Hill, in the Peristyle of the *Domus Flavia*. This large colonnaded courtyard is now known as the Labyrinth Court.

**Borghese Gallery** • Enjoy a visit to Rome's most beautiful park, *Villa Borghese*. There, view the superb art collection on display in *Galleria Borghese*. This museum owns Bernini masterpieces, such as *David and Apollo* and *Daphne*, and Canova's famous statue of Pauline Borghese, the sister of Napoléon Bonaparte.

*Meals included: Breakfast*  
*Overnight: Rome*

## DAY 9: DEPARTURE

*Ciao, Europa!* Statistics show that visitors do in fact return to Rome, although it may not have anything to do with coins in a fountain. Race the sun and arrive home



DAY 8: Roman Forum

later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

*Meals included: Breakfast*





**Santa Maria Assunta Cathedral, Positano**

The designer is Mimmo Paladino, a very famous present day Italian artist.



### **Labyrinth at the Basilica San Vitale**

This labyrinth is identical in size to the labyrinth in Castle Sant' Angelo, but is unique, as it has tiles of arrows which point the pathway out. It appears that for this labyrinth a pilgrim begins in the center and follows the arrows out. When this labyrinth was installed, each tile had a flower design imprinted on it. Over time the patterns have worn off.





Labyrinth at Castle Sant' Angelo ~ Rome





## Finger Labyrinth

San Martino Cathedral, Lucca



Pompeii Labyrinth

# Participant Cost Breakdown

**Itinerary** 9 Labyrinths, 9 Days - France and Italy Labyrinths

**Departing** September 1, 2010

**Departure City** Portland, OR

**Program Cost** \$3,589

*Add \$95 lifetime membership/registration fee*

*Add \$469 airline fees*

**Included Add-ons** Double rooms throughout  
*(already included in price)*

**Total Cost** \$4,153

**Estimated Monthly Payment** \$732

*\*The above total cost is based on a minimum enrollment of 10 participants and is valid for those who enroll and pay in full before May 14, 2010. Estimated monthly payment for enrollments before December 15, 2009 after \$495 deposit.*

**Optional Add-ons** Single rooms: \$55 per person per night  
*(not included in price)*

#### TRAVEL PAK BENEFITS PACKAGE

Life, health, and accident insurance, and trip interruption/cancellation coverage. Optional at \$149, pre-billed (may be declined in writing by individual traveler.)