

Olde Ipswich Tours

Small Group Gourmet Travel

2018 Tours

May 2-13 **Amalfi Coast & Capri, Italy**

May 6-19 **Corsica & Sardinia, France/
Italy**

May 26-June 7 **Normandy & Brittany,
France**

May 31-June 14
Aug 26-Sept 9 **Scotland & Ireland**

June 13-27 **Bordeaux, Dordogne &
Languedoc, France**

Aug 30-Sept 12 **Switzerland & Italy's
Northern Lakes**

Sept 10-22 **Paris, Loire Valley &
Champagne, France**

Sept 10-24 **Tuscany, Umbria & Cinque
Terre, Italy**

Sept 17-28 **Piedmont, Parma & Bologna,
Italy**

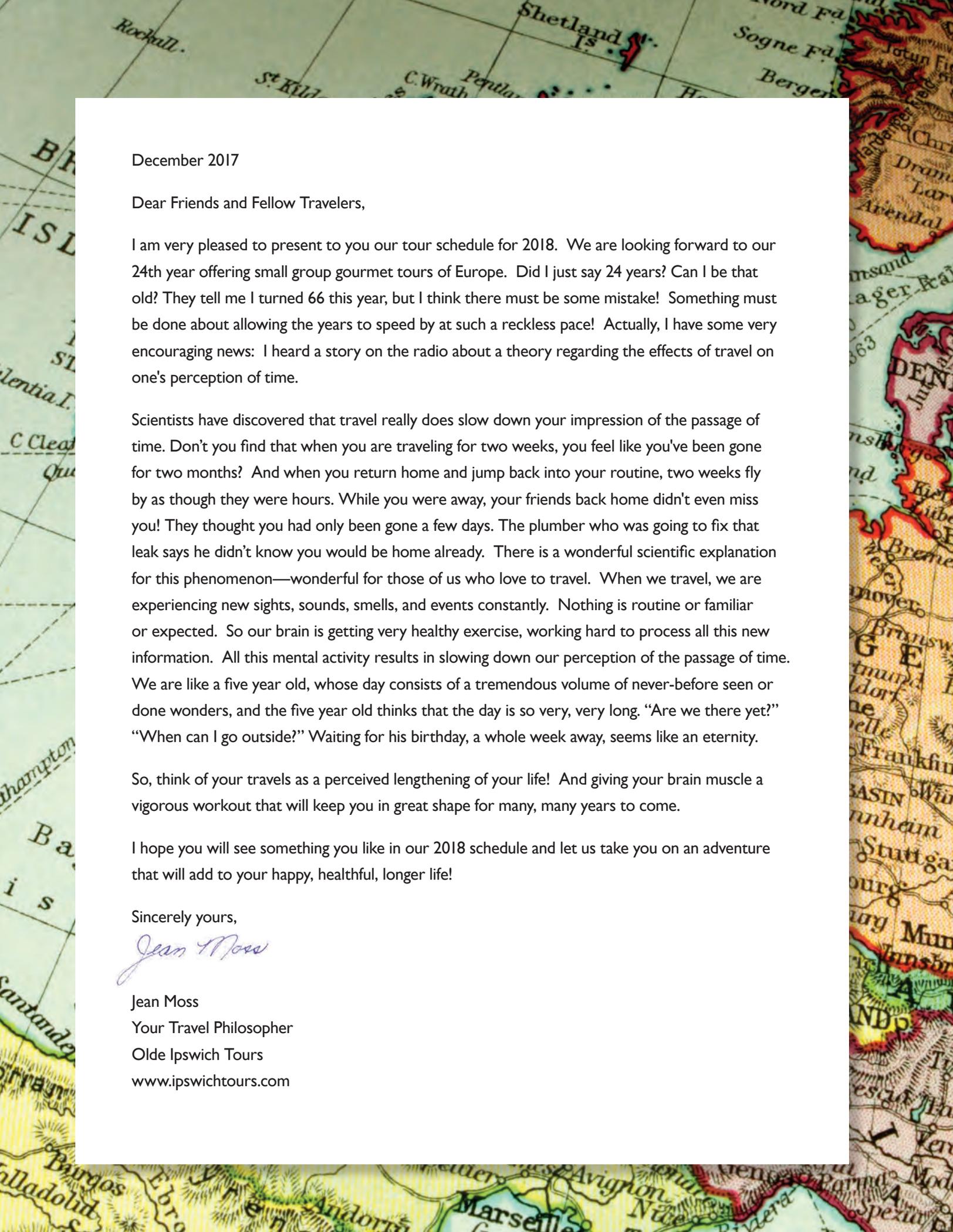
Sept 19-Oct 3 **Croatia, Slovenia & Venice**

Sept 24-Oct 7 **Burgundy, Rhône Valley &
Provence, France**

Oct 2-16 **Andalusia, Toledo & Madrid,
Spain**

Oct 15-28 **Rome, Amalfi Coast & Sicily,
Italy**

Oct 22-Nov 5 **Back Roads & Wines of Portugal**



December 2017

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

I am very pleased to present to you our tour schedule for 2018. We are looking forward to our 24th year offering small group gourmet tours of Europe. Did I just say 24 years? Can I be that old? They tell me I turned 66 this year, but I think there must be some mistake! Something must be done about allowing the years to speed by at such a reckless pace! Actually, I have some very encouraging news: I heard a story on the radio about a theory regarding the effects of travel on one's perception of time.

Scientists have discovered that travel really does slow down your impression of the passage of time. Don't you find that when you are traveling for two weeks, you feel like you've been gone for two months? And when you return home and jump back into your routine, two weeks fly by as though they were hours. While you were away, your friends back home didn't even miss you! They thought you had only been gone a few days. The plumber who was going to fix that leak says he didn't know you would be home already. There is a wonderful scientific explanation for this phenomenon—wonderful for those of us who love to travel. When we travel, we are experiencing new sights, sounds, smells, and events constantly. Nothing is routine or familiar or expected. So our brain is getting very healthy exercise, working hard to process all this new information. All this mental activity results in slowing down our perception of the passage of time. We are like a five year old, whose day consists of a tremendous volume of never-before seen or done wonders, and the five year old thinks that the day is so very, very long. "Are we there yet?" "When can I go outside?" Waiting for his birthday, a whole week away, seems like an eternity.

So, think of your travels as a perceived lengthening of your life! And giving your brain muscle a vigorous workout that will keep you in great shape for many, many years to come.

I hope you will see something you like in our 2018 schedule and let us take you on an adventure that will add to your happy, healthful, longer life!

Sincerely yours,



Jean Moss

Your Travel Philosopher

Olde Ipswich Tours

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WHY TRAVEL WITH US



Exceptional Small Group Travel

When you travel with us, you explore beyond the traditional tourist spots and venture off the beaten path. You will travel with small groups of six to sixteen, which gives us the unparalleled opportunity to deliver an exceptional travel experience. You can squeeze through narrow streets in medieval villages, spend the night in quaint small towns that have no large hotels, dine in small, intimate restaurants, and enjoy unforgettable experiences in the homes of local friends. Traveling with a small group has the advantage of organizing exclusive hands-on cooking classes, chartering private boats, hunting for truffles, and enjoying local guides who will answer any question you may have.

Flexibility

Your desires and individuality are important to us. We are flexible and aim to cater to your specific needs. Want to squeeze a special request into our itinerary? Chances are we can pull it off. Do you wish to learn how to make limoncello in a friend's kitchen or ride with a French philosopher in his hot-air balloon? At Olde Ipswich Tours, you receive personalized customer service and attention every step of the way—before, during, and after the tour.

Local Culture

Our tours enrich your experience by immersing you in local culture. We hand-select the most interesting and culturally-rich destinations and activities. You will dive deep into the region's history, art, architecture, and cuisine. You will be the guests and friends of our local hosts and expert guides, not tourists.

Gourmet Experience

One of our favorite ways to experience regional culture is at the dinner table. You will dine at the finest restaurants we have hand selected, tour world renowned wineries, and experience hands-on cooking classes with professional and local chefs. We also offer just the right amount of free time in each region, giving you the opportunity to relax, explore, and get to know your surroundings.

Beautiful Accommodations

We select our hotels with great care. Quality and comfort rank high among our criteria, paired with great service and warmth of welcome. You will receive the best accommodations, based on charm, exceptional service, and location. Most of our hotels are rated 4-star, with an occasional 5-star and a few unique 3-star inns of extraordinary quality and character.

Value

Our goal is to make your travel experience stress free. We handle all the scheduling and logistics, so you can spend more time enjoying your surroundings. As a result, your tour cost includes nearly everything. The price reflected is comprised of not only the major ingredients, such as hotels, transportation, and your tour leader, but also includes all your breakfasts, several lunches, and most dinners. The tour price also includes tips, entrance fees, wine tastings, cooking classes, activity fees, airport transfers and taxes.



Amalfi Coast



Bonifacio, Corsica

Amalfi Coast & Capri, Italy

May 2-13, 2018

What could be better than 12 sun-drenched days along the stunningly beautiful Amalfi Coast? Enjoy boat rides, eat sumptuous fresh seafood, and soak in the romance of Capri — la dolce vita!

Day 1: Naples – Begin in Naples, the vibrant heart of southern Italy. Enjoy fresh and authentic Neapolitan cuisine and a walking tour of the historic center, including the National Museum of Archeology.

Days 2-6: Amalfi – Five nights at a seafront hotel in the pastel village of Amalfi. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pompeii with a private guide, followed by a wine-tasting lunch at a Mt. Vesuvius winery known for its Lacryma Christi wines. Daily excursions to the beautiful villages of Amalfi, Ravello and Positano. Gourmet dinners, including a wine-tasting feast at an award-winning winery on a cliff overlooking the sea; optional hike along the Path of the Gods; a very special evening musical performance as part of the famous Ravello Music Festival.

Days 7-9: Capri – Three nights at a dreamy resort, high above the ocean. Walking tours of Capri and Anacapri, visits to Villa San Michele and the Gardens of Augustus, private boat tour around the island, and free time for exploring. Dine on freshly caught seafood under a canopy of lemon trees. Enjoy the mystique and quiet of this beautiful island when the tour buses have all left for the day.

Days 10-11: Sorrento – Two nights in a luxury hotel overlooking the Bay of Naples. Private guided tour of Sorrento, home of Homer’s mythical Sirens. Entertaining pizza-making lesson. Farewell dinner at a Michelin-star restaurant.

Day 12: Depart for Naples Airport for the flight home.

12 days | \$7,090 Land Only

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 7

Begins and ends in Naples, Italy

“We had the most wonderful time. It was most certainly a trip that we will not forget. So romantic!”

Corsica & Sardinia, France & Italy

May 6-19, 2018

Explore the magnificent scenery, fascinating culture, history, and excellent wines and cuisine of Corsica and Sardinia—a blend of French and Italian styles.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Nice.

Day 2: Nice – Arrive in Nice, capital of the French Riviera, stroll the waterfront promenade, and tour the old city. Gourmet welcome dinner.

Day 3-4: Calvi – From Nice, a short flight to the Corsican town of Calvi and our beautiful hotel overlooking the sea. Visit Calvi and the surrounding coast, including a Corsican winery and olive oil producer.

Day 5-6: Ajaccio – Departing Calvi, head south to Corsica’s capital city, Ajaccio, Napoleon’s birthplace. Enjoy a boat ride to Scandola Nature Preserve, a UNESCO Heritage site. Savor this lively town on the sea.

Day 7-8: Bonifacio – South of Ajaccio visit the prehistoric site of Filitosa. Lunch in the seaside resort of Propriano, then continue to Bonifacio, Corsica’s southernmost town. Walking tour of Bonifacio and free time to relax at our beautiful hotel overlooking the sea.

Day 9-10: Alghero – Take a short ferry ride across the Straits of Bonifacio to the lovely town of Santa Terisa di Gallura on the northernmost tip of the island of Sardinia. Visit the fascinating prehistoric village, La Brandall and the Tomb of the Giants, a communal grave dating back to the 14th century B.C. Two nights at a beautiful hotel on a private peninsula, former residence of the kings of Italy. Gourmet Sardinian dinner. Next day is an optional boat ride to a geological marvel: the Caves of Neptune. Visit a local winery and olive oil producer with tastings.

Days 11-12: Oristano – Scenic coastal drive with breathtaking views of Bosa, an ancient Phoenician town known for its seafood. Visit Tharros, dating from the 7th century B.C. Visit medieval Oristano. Take an entertaining cooking class.

Day 13: Cagliari – Head to the last stop on the southern coast, the capital city of Cagliari. Along the way see the ancient *nuraghe* – megalithic constructions from 1900-730 B.C. Tour Cagliari and enjoy a gourmet farewell dinner.

Day 14: Depart for Cagliari Airport for the flight home.

14 days | \$7,890 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 8

Begins: Nice, France | Ends: Cagliari, Italy



Dinan, France

Normandy & Brittany, France

May 26-June 7, 2018

From the castles of William the Conqueror and the Bayeux Tapestry to the battlefields and cemeteries of the 1944 Normandy Invasion, to the more peaceful, civilized villages, where we concentrate on raw oysters, hard cider and Pont l'Evêque cheese.

Day 1: Rouen – The tour begins in the picturesque medieval town of Rouen, ancient capital of the province. See the magnificent cathedral Monet painted so many times; the narrow streets lined with ancient half-timbered houses; and the place where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Welcome dinner introduces us to Normandy's haute cuisine.

Day 2-4: Honfleur – Continue to Honfleur, “the prettiest village in Normandy.” Spend three nights in a beautiful 18th century manor house. Enjoy a gourmet dinner on the picturesque harbor. Take a spectacular cliff walk in Etretat on the Channel coast. Visit a cider distillery to taste Calvados brandy made the traditional way.

Days 5-7: Bayeux – Three nights in a charming inn in the center of this unspoiled Norman town. See the 12th century Bayeux Tapestry and William the Conqueror's castle in nearby Caen. Visit the Caen WWII Memorial Museum, Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery, Pointe du Hoc, and Saint Mère Eglise with an expert World War II guide.

Days 8-10: Dinan – Travel to the Atlantic coast to visit the spectacular 12th century abbey, Mont Saint Michel. Cross into Brittany, and spend three nights in the charming medieval town of Dinan. Visit the historic port of St. Malo; devour all the oysters you can in Cancale.

Days 11-12: Connelles – Two nights in a beautiful manor house on the Seine River. Tour the Château Gaillard, built by Richard the Lionheart, in the hills of Les Andelys. Visit Monet's famous gardens and his home in Giverny. Enjoy a gourmet dinner in the elegant dining room overlooking the river.

Day 13: Depart for Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport for the flight home.

13 days | \$7,090 Land Only

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 9

Begins and ends in Paris, France



Eilean Donan Castle, Scotland

Scotland & Ireland

May 31-June 14, 2018; August 26-September 9, 2018

Emerald greens, Scottish whisky, Irish beer, lively pubs, smoked wild salmon, the Irish Cliffs of Moher, the Beara Peninsula, the Scottish Highlands, Isle of Skye, historic castles.

Day 1: Edinburgh, Scotland – Arrive at this wonderful, lively city and enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. Whisky tasting lesson, followed by welcome dinner.

Days 2-4: Inverness, Isle of Skye – Overnight in Inverness. Search for Nessie on Loch Ness and visit Urquhart Castle. Two nights on Isle of Skye. See the most photographed castle in Scotland, Eilean Donan.

Days 5-7: Oban, Glasgow – See the spectacular scenery of the Glenfinnan Gorge (Harry Potter bridge) and spend a day in the beautiful Highlands village of Oban. Try Oban whisky! Two nights in Glasgow. Visit historic Stirling Castle, and dine on Glasgow's newly discovered gourmet cuisine.

Days 8-9: Dublin, Ireland – Short flight to Dublin. 2 days to explore this lively capital city.

Days 10-12: Kenmare – Stop at the Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle on the way to the beautiful west coast. Three nights in Kenmare-- iconic picturesque Irish town, full of pubs and good restaurants, and even has an ancient Celtic stone circle. Explore the Beara Peninsula, Ring of Kerry, Killarney National Park & the island gardens of Innacullin in Bantry Bay.

Days 13-14: Doolin, Galway – Overnight at a lovely castle-hotel overlooking the ocean in Doolin, County Clare. Walk along the Cliffs of Moher. Experience one of Doolin's singing pubs for a taste of live traditional Irish music. End your Irish adventure in the lively town of Galway. Gourmet farewell dinner.

Day 15: Depart for Shannon Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$6,990 Land Only

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 11

Begins: Edinburgh, Scotland | Ends: Shannon, Ireland

La Roque Gageac, Dordogne River



The Matterhorn



Bordeaux, Dordogne & Languedoc, France

June 13-27, 2018

Our journey takes us through Périgord, the ancient kingdom of Aquitaine once ruled by Queen Eleanor. Known for its castles and medieval villages perched on hills, this region is said to be the most gastronomically rich area in France: truffles, foie gras, strawberries, and, did we mention, wine?

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Bordeaux.

Day 2-3: Bordeaux – Get to know this charming city. Follow the “Wine Road” to the Haut Médoc and visit a famous wine château.

Days 4-5: Brantôme – Visit the charming wine village of St. Emilion. Tour its fascinating underground monuments, and enjoy some free time to explore. Then continue to the picturesque village of Brantôme, once home to Charlemagne. Two nights in this fascinating historic town on the beautiful Dronne River.

Days 6-8: Sarlat – Visit the renowned Lascaux II cave replica on the way to Sarlat, capital of foie gras and truffles and home for three nights. Meander the car-free streets of this medieval village. See prehistoric cave paintings in Les Eyzies, and tour the National Museum of Prehistory. Enjoy a gourmet “lunch with a view” from the top of the ancient village of Domme. Take a tour of 12th century Beynac Castle. Go on a truffle hunt in the countryside followed by a truffle flavored lunch. Take a boat ride on the Dordogne River, gliding by the cliffs of La Roque Gageac.

Days 9-11: Rocamadour – Three nights at a beautiful country inn outside the ancient cliff-side village of Rocamadour. Boat ride on an underground lake in a spectacular cave. Optional balloon ride. Visit a few of the prettiest villages in France. Gastronomic dinners each night.

Days 12-14: Albi – Stop in Cahors and Saint-Cirq Lapopie, two picture-perfect towns, on our way to Albi, where we spend three nights. Visit Toulouse Lautrec’s museum and the nearby city of Toulouse. In the Languedoc region, visit the perfectly preserved medieval walled village of Carcassonne, Europe’s largest fortress. Excursion to the photogenic magical hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel.

Day 15: Depart for Toulouse Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$6,990 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 10

Begins: Bordeaux, France | Ends: Toulouse, France

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Switzerland & Italy’s Northern Lakes

August 30–September 12, 2018

This scenic tour features idyllic villages tucked in the Swiss Alps, stunning vistas, waterfalls and glaciers, Swiss fondue and chocolate, and boat rides on Italian Lakes Como, Garda, and Maggiore.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Zürich.

Day 2: Zürich – Begin with a guided tour of Zürich, followed by a welcome dinner in this lovely lake-front city.

Days 3-5: Brienz – On our way to the Bernese Oberland region, visit beautiful Luzern. Spend 3 days in the mountains of Brienz at a beautiful hotel on Lake Brienz. Take a fantastic alpine journey by aerial gondola; see UNESCO’s ten Trümmelbach waterfalls inside a mountain; visit the quaint towns of Lauterbrunnen, Thun, and Interlaken.

Days 6-7: Zermatt – After a cheese and chocolate tour, continue to the famous pedestrian village of Zermatt, nestled at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn mountain. Ride a gondola high up the Klein Matterhorn Mountain for spectacular views. Walk inside a real glacier.

Day 8: Como – A scenic ride east through the Alps takes us to the picturesque towns of Ascona and Lugano. Cross into Italy and spend the night at a beautiful hotel on the shore of Lake Como.

Days 9-11: Salò, Lake Garda – Spend a day on Lake Como, visiting the Villa Carlotta and the tiny village of Bellagio. On Lake Garda spend 3 nights at an elegant lakefront hotel in the resort village of Salò. Boat ride to the ancient Roman village of Sirmione, Valpolicella winery visit, and guided tour of Verona. Wonderful northern Italian cuisine.

Days 12-13: Stresa, Lake Maggiore – Last two nights at a lovely lakeside hotel in Stresa, Italy, on Lake Maggiore. Visit the three Borromean Islands by boat.

Days 14: Depart for Milan Malpensa Airport for the flight home.

14 days | \$7,990 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 9

Begins: Zurich, Switzerland | Ends: Milan, Italy



Paris, Loire Valley & Champagne, France

September 10-22, 2018

Beloved Paris; the wine and gastronomic cuisine of the Loire Valley, visits to royal châteaux, quaint medieval villages and family-owned wineries; the rolling hills and vineyards of Champagne, where you can drink champagne with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Paris.

Days 2-3: Paris – Two nights in a charming hotel in the St. Germain des Prés quarter. City of Light, and of dreams. Boat ride on the Seine River and gourmet welcome dinner. Visits for new and return visitors to Paris' classic and unforgettable sites.

Days 4-8: Truys – Visit to Chartres Cathedral en route to the Loire Valley. Five nights at a warm, family-run “gîte” housed in a 16th century manor. Take private tours with local expert guides through royal châteaux, quaint villages, and vineyards. Cooking class in our host's kitchen; wine-tasting lunches; gastronomic dinners. Visits to Loches, Chenonceau, Ussé, Chinon, Langeais, Tours, and the Montlouis wine town. In Amboise, visit Le Clos Lucé, where King Francis I invited his friend, Leonardo da Vinci, to spend the last years of his life.

Days 9-11: Epernay – Travel to a land where champagne producers dominate small villages. Spend three nights in Champagne's capital, our base for excursions through rolling vineyards to Reims and Hautvillers (home of Dom Pérignon), private vineyards, and tiny wine villages. Boat ride on the Marne. Buvez champagne!

Day 12: Fère-en-Tardenois – Settle into our final destination: an authentic, magnificent chateau. Visit an American military cemetery with the local mayor and pay your respects to 6,012 World War I soldiers who perished nearby. End your trip with a farewell dinner fit for royalty.

Day 13: Depart for Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for the flight home.

13 days | \$7,190 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 9

Begins and ends: Paris, France



Tuscany, Umbria & Cinque Terre, Italy

September 10–24, 2018

Magnificent architecture and Renaissance art, Etruscan tombs and Roman ruins, the wine villages of Montepulciano, Montalcino, Orvieto, and Chianti. Pecorino cheese, olive oil, trattorias, panoramic hilltop vistas.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Florence.

Day 2: Florence – Guided walking tour with a local art historian. Visit Palazzo Vecchio, the Duomo, Baptistery, Piazza della Signoria. Tuscan welcome dinner.

Days 3-4: Chianti – Two nights in the heart of the Chianti wine region. Wine-tasting class and gastronomic Tuscan cuisine. A day in beautiful Siena.

Days 5-7: Spello – After stopping at a Montalcino winery for a wine tasting lunch, spend three nights in a beautiful former palace in the magical hilltop village of Spello, Umbria. Guided tours of Perugia, Assisi, and Orvieto. Visit a family owned winery in Montefalco, now considered one of Italy's most acclaimed wine regions.

Days 8-9: Montepulciano – Visit the picturesque hill town of Cortona, made famous by the book and film *Under the Tuscan Sun*. Then spend two nights at a dreamy Tuscan estate, surrounded by hills and vineyards. Take a Tuscan cooking class at our villa. Enjoy a wine tasting lunch at a local vineyard, and explore the beautiful hilltop town of Montepulciano with a local expert guide.

Days 10-11: San Gimignano – Two nights in this fairyland medieval town with its 14 mysterious towers. Take a side trip to the Etruscan hilltop town of Volterra.

Days 12-13: Cinque Terre – See the Leaning Tower of Pisa on our way to Lerici, our base for 2 nights from which we visit the five quaint seaside cliff villages of the “Cinque Terre” by boat. Incredibly fresh seafood. Our local friend, Sarah, invites us to her lovely home for a fun pasta cooking class and lunch.

Day 14: Lucca – Explore this ancient town known for its many picturesque piazzas. After some last minute shopping, enjoy a grand farewell dinner.

Day 15: Depart for Pisa Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$7,190 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 11

Begins: Florence, Italy | Ends: Pisa, Italy



Barolo

Piedmont, Parma & Bologna, Italy

September 17-28, 2018

Discover the best that Northern Italy has to offer: culture, scenery, food and wine. Enjoy the hilly landscape with hilltop medieval villages, castles, and miles of vineyards.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Torino.

Days 2-4: Torino – Begin in Torino, capital of the Piedmont region, where our tour leader welcomes us in our beautiful hotel in the city center with an Italian aperitivo and Turin-style hors d'oeuvres. Discover the historic center and ancient ruins. Get a bird's eye view of the city from the top of the Mole Antonelliana tower, unique architectural symbol of Turin. Taste Turin's famous chocolate and their signature hot chocolate-coffee drink, Bicerin. Visit the Porta Palazzo market with a local chef to select the finest ingredients for our cooking class. Dine on our creations in a private mansion.

Days 5-7: La Morra – Enter the Langhe wine region. Our tiny hotel for the next three days is in the center of one of the prettiest villages in Italy, high on a hill overlooking miles of vineyards and the surrounding countryside. Sample local wines in unique settings (such as a grape-shaped platform suspended above rolling hills). Stroll through ancient villages and explore Alba, the "City of 100 Towers." Have a glass of Barolo in Barolo, which lent its name to the famous red wine. Visit a local producer of sheep cheese, made the traditional way with a centuries old recipe. Dine at a Michelin starred restaurant that boasts the largest wine cellar in Italy.

Days 8-11: Parma – Venture to the Food Valley, the region of Emilia-Romagna. Learn how to make homemade pasta; see where the famous Italian balsamic vinegar is produced; explore the secrets of Parmigiano cheese production and the prized Culatello prosciutto. Explore the lively city of Parma, rich in history, art and culture. Take in the architectural wonders of Bologna, with its streets lined with porticos, ancient churches, palaces, shops, restaurants and trattorias. Known as the gastronomic capital of Italy, Bologna is the birthplace of lasagna, mortadella, tagliolini, and, of course, ragù bolognese. Gourmet farewell dinner.

Day 12: Depart for Bologna Airport for the flight home.

12 days | \$6,690 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 4 | Dinners: 6

Begins: Torino, Italy | Ends: Bologna, Italy

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Dubrovnik

Croatia, Slovenia & Venice

September 19–October 3, 2018

Come with us to this wonderful region of old, unspoiled Europe. Gorgeous coastal and mountain scenery, enticing outdoor cafés, romantic castles and palaces, and fascinating ancient ruins.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Dubrovnik.

Days 2-3: Dubrovnik – Our journey begins in Dubrovnik, Croatia, the "pearl of the Adriatic," built on a rock overlooking the sea. Narrow streets, beautiful small squares, countless historical sites. The whole city is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a dream to wander around.

Days 4-5: Split – Drive along the Dalmatian Coast, stopping for oysters in Ston. Tour a winery to try the excellent wines of the Peljesac Peninsula. Two nights in the vibrant coastal city of Split, another World Heritage site. The Roman Emperor Diocletian built what is now the historical center as his retirement palace. Strolling around the brightly lit alleys and squares at night on the polished stone streets is an unforgettable experience.

Days 6-8: Plitvice, Zagreb – Stop to visit the ancient Roman town of Zadar and then continue to the Plitvice Lakes National Park, yet another UNESCO World Heritage site. Take an entertaining Croatian cooking class and then overnight by the park. In the morning explore the beautiful walkways among terraced lakes and waterfalls. Then enjoy two days to discover Zagreb, Croatia's lovely capital city.

Days 9-10: Ljubljana – Cross the Slovenian border into the Sava wine region and stop for a winery tour and tasting lunch. Two days in the magical Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. Excursion to the spectacular Postojna Cave.

Days 11-12: Bled – Our next stop is the fairytale Lake Bled. Situated at the foot of Mt. Triglav, Lake Bled is "without a doubt the most beautiful lake in the Alps." Take a pletna boat to an island in the lake, visit Bled Castle, and sample the famous cream cake, Kremšnitica.

Days 13-14: Venice – Scenic mountain drive to the northern Italian city of Udine. Stop for a guided tour, and continue to the Queen of the Adriatic, Venice. Two nights to explore this incredible city.

Day 15: Depart for Venice Marco Polo Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$7,190 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 1 | Dinners: 9

Begins: Dubrovnik, Croatia | Ends: Venice, Italy



Burgundy, Rhône Valley & Provence, France

September 24-October 7, 2018

The white wines of Burgundy and reds of the Côtes du Rhône, the fine gastronomy of Lyon, the sensuous fragrances of Provence; combined with ancient Roman, medieval and Renaissance architecture and picturesque villages along the Rhône Valley.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Lyon, France.

Days 2-3: Lyon – Two days in the gastronomic capital of France. Take a gourmet cooking class. Excursion to the Roman town of Vienne. Eat, drink, walk, explore. Enjoy your first two gourmet dinners.

Days 4-6: Beaune – Drive through the hilly Beaujolais countryside, stopping at a family owned winery for a wine-tasting lunch. Arrive in Beaune, Wine Capital of Burgundy, and enjoy this magical village for three days. Excursions to Dijon and the Côtes du Nuits wine region.

Days 7-10: Avignon – After a visit to the tiny medieval hilltop village of Pérouges, drive south along the beautiful Rhône River, ablaze with poppy fields. Our elegant hotel in Avignon's historic center is our base for four days. Explore Avignon's medieval streets, including the Pope's Palace. Stop in the Châteauneuf du Pape wine village. Excursions to the Luberon Mountain region and tiny Provence villages. Discover the Roman town of Uzès and the largest Roman aqueduct, the Pont du Gard.

Days 11-13: Saint Rémy de Provence – Three days in a beautiful country inn in this very Provençal village. Gourmet dinners served by Pierre in the garden. Excursions to Glanum, a Roman village uncovered in 1921, Les Baux-de-Provence, Arles (Van Gogh's home), and a Côtes du Rhône winery.

Day 14: Depart for Marseilles Airport for the flight home.

14 days | \$7,890 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 2 | Dinners: 9

Begins: Lyon, France | Ends: Marseilles, France

Andalusia, Toledo & Madrid, Spain

October 2-16, 2018

Visit the Spain of your dreams: ancient Moorish palaces, bougainvillea-covered white homes, flamenco dancers, tapas, and the Mediterranean.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Madrid.

Days 2-4: Toledo – Three nights in a former archbishop's palace turned elegant hotel; explore Toledo and Madrid. Visit the royal palace and El Prado Museum.

Days 5-6: Córdoba – Drive through the Sierra Nevada Mountains to spend the next two nights in the ancient town of Córdoba. Visit the Mezquita Mosque Cathedral, the gardens of the royal palace and the Old Jewish Quarter. Wonderful Andalusian cuisine.

Days 7-8: Nerja – Spend a day at the remarkable Alhambra of Granada, with its incredible ancient Moorish architecture. Head south to the Costa del Sol for two nights at a seaside hotel on the Mediterranean. Excursion to the hilltop "white village" of Frigiliana and the famous Nerja caves.

Days 9-11: Sevilla – Drive along the coast and up into the mountains; stop for lunch in Ronda, then taste sherry in Jerez de la Frontera. In Sevilla, visit the famous Gothic cathedral, the tomb of Christopher Columbus, the Plaza de España, the magnificent royal palace, and beautiful hidden streets in the old city. Live flamenco show and a fun cooking class.

Days 12-13: Cáceres – Stop in Merida to see Roman ruins on our way to Cáceres, our home for the next two nights. This lively town is a unique blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance styles and a UNESCO World Heritage City.

Day 14: Madrid – Visit El Escorial, the enormous royal palace with its world-famous art gallery. Grand farewell dinner.

Day 15: Depart for Madrid Barajas Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$6,990 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 8

Begins and ends in Madrid, Spain

Temple of Concordia, Agrigento



Bom Jesus, Braga



Rome, Amalfi Coast & Sicily, Italy

October 15–28, 2018

Breathtaking scenery, fascinating archaeological sites, mouth-watering local food and wine.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Rome.

Days 2-3: Rome – Fly to Rome and stay in the heart of the ancient city, where you can walk everywhere. Our local guide takes us to the Vatican and St. Peter’s, the Roman Forum, Colosseum, and through some ancient Roman neighborhoods for an insider’s tour. Sumptuous local cuisine.

Days 4-7: Sorrento – Three nights in this magical town at a luxury hotel overlooking the Bay of Naples. Explore Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and Ravello. A day on the dreamy island of Capri. Tour the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum with an expert guide. Wine-tasting lunch at a Mt. Vesuvius winery. Overnight ferry from Naples to Palermo, Sicily.

Day 8: Agrigento – Arrive at the port of Palermo, Sicily and take a city tour with our expert local guide. See the incredible Arab-Norman Cathedral of Monreale. Drive south to Agrigento and check into our hotel just outside the magnificent Valley of the Temples. Dating from 520 B.C., these spectacular Greek temples make the ruins of Rome and Pompeii seem modern. Enjoy a Sicilian gourmet feast.

Days 9-10: Siracusa – Our expert guide takes us on a fascinating walk through the surreal Valley of the Temples and through the archaeological museum. In Piazza Armerina visit the UNESCO Villa Romana del Casale, a Roman villa with thousands of colorful mosaics preserved for 2,000 years. Continue on to Siracusa on the southeast Sicilian coast, founded by the Corinthians in 734 B.C. Our hotel for two nights is on the island of Ortigia, the ancient town center.

Days 11-13: Taormina – Our tour of Siracusa includes the ancient Greek theater where Plato performed and the eerie Catacombs of San Giovanni. Our next destination is the gorgeous seaside town of Taormina where we spend three nights in a five star seaside hotel. Visit the still-active volcano of Mt. Etna, and enjoy a wine-tasting lunch. Relax at our beautiful resort and enjoy free time in the most beautiful village of Sicily.

Day 14: Depart for Catania Airport for the flight home.

14 days | \$7,890 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Lunches: 1 | Dinners: 8

Begins: Rome, Italy | Ends: Catania, Sicily

Back Roads & Wines of Portugal

October 22–November 5, 2018

Our local tour leader shows us why the Portuguese are the warmest, friendliest people on earth. She takes us behind the scenes to the most beautiful, fascinating corners of this remarkable country.

Day 1: Depart the United States, flying overnight to Lisbon.

Days 2-3: Lisbon – Stay two nights in a boutique hotel in the center of Lisbon. Visit Lisbon’s colorful neighborhoods while sampling tapas. Visit an azulejos tile workshop. Gourmet dinner.

Days 4-5: Guimarães – Two nights in a beautiful “Pousada” hotel in Portugal’s ancient capital. Visit the ancient city of Coimbra; tour a famous Porto winery in the city of Porto; climb down the spectacular Bom Jesus do Monte monumental staircase.

Days 6-8: Pinhão – Three nights in an elegant Relais & Châteaux hotel on the banks of the Douro River. Visit a local winery for a Port wine tasting. Visits to the famous prehistoric Vila Nova de Foz Côa archeological site, a colorful village market, and the impressive Solar de Mateus Palace and gardens.

Day 9: Marvão – Stay at the Pousada of Marvão, high on a mountain, with amazing views into Spain. Explore this picturesque ancient village and its romantic castle.

Days 10-11: Evora – Visit a famous Alentejo winery on our way to the fascinating walled Roman town of Evora, where we stay two nights at an elegant pousada. Evora is a delight to explore, with its perfectly preserved Roman temple and an unusual ancient church decorated with human bones. Take a fun cooking class.

Days 12-14: Sintra – Three nights in the beautiful hilltop village of Sintra. Visit Sintra’s two royal palaces, and explore its quaint streets. Drive to the Cabo da Roca to see the ocean from Europe’s western-most tip of land. Gourmet farewell dinner.

Day 15: Depart for Lisbon Airport for the flight home.

15 days | \$6,790 including airfare from Boston or New York

Breakfasts: All | Dinners: 11

Begins and ends in Lisbon, Portugal

Private & Custom Tours



Let us plan your dream vacation

You can use our standard tours as a starting point for Olde Ipswich Tours to craft and personalize your own private, custom tour. Simply give us an idea of where you would like to go, and we will take care of the rest! You have the option of a private guide to accompany you throughout your trip who will follow your every detail, or we can put you in the driver's seat.

We book everything from your accommodations, guides, activities, and restaurants. You will be given a detailed itinerary, driving instructions and useful tips based on your specific interests. No group is too large or too small. From honeymoons and anniversaries to alumni travel, club trips and family vacations—we will put together a comprehensive and exclusive custom tour that exceeds every expectation!

Call us to arrange your custom tour.



“Our family has always been close, but taking this special trip together allowed us to share the most amazing food, wine, and history together. We could never have planned a more perfect trip by ourselves.”

Recent Custom Tours

- One-week wine tour through Portugal for a US wine club
- A specially tailored version of our Piedmont & Bologna, Italy tour for lifelong friends
- 10-day European tour for a University alumni group
- Romantic three-week anniversary trip throughout Switzerland and Italy
- Annual culinary tour for a cooking school
- One-week University Study Tour program in Galway, Ireland



Pre-planned Tours for Your Own Group

Examples of our previously run gourmet tours for your own private group of 4 or more. The larger your group, the lower the cost. You choose the dates!



► The French & Italian Rivas

Days 1-5: Saint Paul de Vence—5 nights at a dreamy resort a few steps from the hilltop village of Saint Paul. Excursions to Antibes, Biot, Vence, Mougins and Cannes. Impressionist art, flowers, scenery...

Days 6-7: Beaulieu-sur-mer—Harbor-front hotel a short walk from Cap St. Jean Ferrat and the spectacular Villa Rothschild. Visit Nice, Eze, Villefranche-sur-mer, and Monaco. Seafood, Pastis, soupe de poisson.

Days 8-9: Santa Margherita di Ligure, Italian Riviera—Boat ride to Portofino, Fruttuoso, Camogli.

Days 10-12: Lerici, Cinque Terre—Lunch at a family winery. Cliff-side hotel in Lerici. Explore the five villages of the Cinque Terre. Cooking class at our friend's gorgeous home.

► Autumn in New England's Villages

Day 1: Boston, MA—Walk the Freedom Trail. Gourmet dinner with a 52 story view of the city.

Days 2-3: Ogunquit, ME—Visit the scenic, rugged southern coast of Maine. Plenty of fresh seafood.

Days 4-5: Jackson, NH—Splendid fall foliage in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Days 6-8: West Dover, VT—Drive along Lake Winnepesaukee, NH, Quechee Gorge, and picturesque Woodstock, Vermont. Visit Manchester and Bennington, VT, the Berkshire Mountains region and Stockbridge, MA.

Days 9-10: Lexington, MA—Trace the path of the Minute Men and Redcoats from Old North Bridge in Concord to Lexington Green. See the homes and hear stories of Hawthorne, Emerson, Alcott, and Thoreau.

► Belgium & Amsterdam

Days 1-2: Amsterdam—Begin in the beautiful city of Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands and home to some of the best art museums in the world.

Days 3-4: Antwerp—Visit a family-run cheese farm and one of the top breweries in the Netherlands for a tasting of their special beers and lunch. After Antwerp, visit Brouwerij De Koninck, and enjoy a Michelin star dining experience.

Day 5: Brussels—Walking tour, chocolate making workshop, guided beer and chocolate tasting.

Days 6-7: Ghent—Picturesque Ghent, criss-crossed by canals and waterways and overflowing with charm.

Days 8-9: Bruges—Also visit Ypres, Flanders and Poperinge and taste what many consider the world's best beer, Westvleteren XII. Depart from Brussels.



► Prague, Kraków & Budapest

Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary

Days 1-3: Prague—3 days to discover the magic of this fascinating city of 100 spires

Days 4-5: Český Krumlov—This adorable village on the Vltava River is like a miniature Prague

Day 6: Brno—Visit the UNESCO town of Telč and historic Brno

Days 7-8: Kraków—Explore this beautiful, historic capital city of Poland. Unforgettable excursion to Auschwitz concentration camp. Visit the unique, intriguing 13th century salt mines.

Days 9-10: Eger—See the UNESCO caves of Aggtelek Karst. 2 nights in the lovely wine town of Eger.

Days 11-13: Budapest—3 days in the magnificent capital on the banks of the Danube River. Condé Nast Traveler labeled Budapest "world's second best city."

► Sailing the Aeolian Islands (Sicily, Italy)

Vulcano, Lipari, Salina, Panarea, Filicudi, Alicudi, Stomboli

Enjoy a one week vacation of a lifetime on a luxury catamaran with de-salter, 4 luxury double cabins with private bathrooms; and 2 cabins for crew.

Explore the gorgeous Aeolian archipelago in the Mediterranean off the coast of Sicily while relaxing on your private yacht.

Be pampered by a private skipper and cook throughout your travel adventure.

Enjoy cooking Italian dishes on board and taste different Italian wines every day.

Participate in food shopping at local markets and enjoy the best fresh fish.

Explore the islands with gentle walks and striking views. Depart and return from Milazzo, Sicily.



► Puglia & Matera, Southeast Italy

Days 1-4: Montegrosso—Stay at a manor farm-- an authentic Apulian “masseria”. Enjoy local wine, oil and seafood. See the large Bronze Age site, crystal salt mountains and Alta Murgia National Park.

Days 5-6: Matera—Visit this fascinating ancient hilltop town, Altamura, and Taranto. Mozzarella and burrata cheese factory. Stunning views of the Ionian and Adriatic Seas from Santa Maria di Leuca.

Days 7-9: Otranto—Pizzelle and orecchiette cooking class. Incredibly fresh seafood in Scorrano. Carve your own stone at the Lecce stone quarry. Try your hand at making olive oil.

Days 10-11: Bari—See the ancient UNESCO Trulli houses in Alberobello. Michelin star dinner. Explore the sights of Bari before retiring to your room overlooking the Adriatic Sea.

► Coastal New England

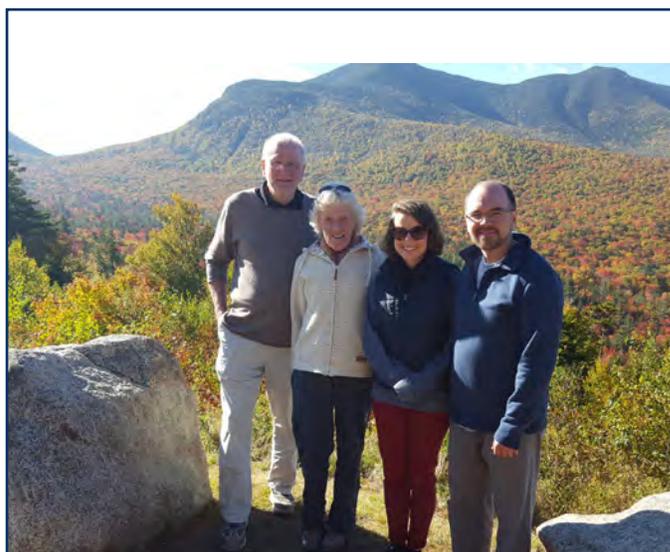
Days 1-4: Salem, MA—Explore the historic North Shore of Boston, including Boston, Marblehead, Gloucester, Rockport, Newburyport, and 17th century Ipswich. Sail on a schooner; hunt for clams; take a gourmet seafood cooking class.

Days 5-7: Boothbay Harbor, ME—Discover the beautiful Maine coast. Lobster bake on an island.

Days 8-9: Kennebunkport—Walk the ocean path in Ogunquit. See York Harbor, Portland, lighthouses...

Days 10-12: Cape Cod, MA—Quaint harbors, miles of sandy shore. A day on old Nantucket.

Day 13: Newport and Boston—See the opulent mansions and picturesque harbor of Newport, Rhode Island. Farewell dinner and overnight in Boston.



Attentive Tour Leaders. Expert Local Guides.

Traveling with Olde Ipswich Tours means your group is assigned a Tour Leader who is with you from beginning to end and is "one of the group." The Tour Leader is responsible for managing the tour and assisting you in every possible way. From time to time throughout the tour, you will meet our local expert Tour Guides. These highly educated, licensed professionals will give you a true sense of the local culture and will lead activities such as walking tours in a given town or city. Many of our local guides have been with us for years. You will love our team!

Tour Leaders



Claire and Bob, Loire Valley



Marina in Piedmont



Pascal in Corsica



Carla in Portugal



Dave in Pompeii



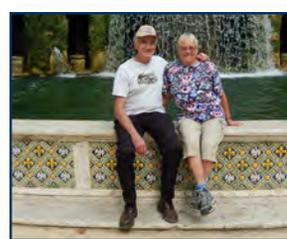
Vincenzo in Italy



Sarah in Cinque Terre



Davis in Ireland



Jean & John...could be anywhere

Local Guides



Anna in Venice



Isabelle in Monaco



Giusi at Segesta, Sicily



Alessandro in Herculaneum



Sandra in Dubrovnik



Alessandra in Siracusa



Philippe in Normandy



Sara on Lake Garda



Beatrice in Bordeaux



Ildy in Rome



Marco in Umbria

Want to join us?

Visit our website to get started! You will find the booking form and our terms and conditions on our website. Just click “Book Your Tour” in the website menu.

Once we receive your booking form and deposit, we will send you a confirmation and invoice, as well as helpful pre-tour information. You'll also receive a day-by-day itinerary, practical information like packing and travel tips, and an introduction to your tour leader ahead of your departure.

Our website offers more details and itinerary information to help you decide which tour is best for you!

Visit us: www.ipswichtours.com

Call us: 978.356.5163 Toll Free: 877.356.0382

Email: info@ipswichtours.com



Happy customers. Wonderful memories.

“This was the most luxurious trip we’ve ever been on – truly special. Hotels with great views, pampered with ‘to die for’ meals with anything we needed at our fingertips. It won’t be our last Olde Ipswich Tour!”

“All expectations were surpassed! It was our first tour and we loved it. Thank you to Olde Ipswich Tours for providing a wonderful experience.”

“Thank you so much for everything you did to make our trip enjoyable and interesting. Our tour leader was fabulous and exceeded all our expectations. He went way beyond the call of duty to insure that we had a wonderful experience.”

“Your company is so thorough and had every detail planned and executed perfectly. We have memories that will last our entire lives!”

“This was the best trip we have ever experienced. We will hold memories of the vistas, locations, people, and meals, forever. The size of the group was perfect, and personalities seemed to mesh well. As Tour Director, Jean was helpful but not intrusive, and gave us plenty of flexibility. We would highly recommend Olde Ipswich Tours and hope to take another tour with you soon!”

“We really like the diversity and spontaneity – nice blend of history, culture, good food and wine and a chance to relax.”

2018 Tour Offerings

*Over 24 years of providing exceptional tours for
small groups of discerning travelers*



“We had the best trip ever. It was just wonderful. The accommodations were fantastic! The food was so good and the wine was divine. I felt that the time allotted was perfect. My husband absolutely loved the trip and can’t wait until the next one!”

Olde Ipswich Tours, LLC
Small Group Gourmet Travel
8 Herrick Drive Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: 978-356-5163 | Email: info@ipswichtours.com | www.ipswichtours.com
