

Let us show you the many worlds that
will make up your...

Dr. Larry Ball's Capitals, Composers and Culture Tour

An exciting journey through the heart of Europe!



Its ALL about the experience....

Dr. Larry Ball's Capitals, Composers and Culture Tour

London, Rome, Florence, Vienna,
Cologne and Paris Tour
Day trips to: Pisa, Tuscany, Rhine Valley and Versailles

May 20- June 5

Itinerary suggested:

May 20 - USA - London

Today you will leave on your **flight to London**. The adventure begins!

May 21 - Arrive London - **Private Transfer to your hotel.**

We will arrive at the airport. There we will be met by the local guide and transferred to our hotel in London. Enroute from the airport we will enjoy a panoramic London Highlights tour during which we will see all the major sights of both London's Old City and the vibrant West End. We will drive by such sights as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and then along the river to the Tower of London. No interior visits are included in this tour (we will be coming back to some of these sites later), but we will make some photo stops at appropriate points. Then we will check into the hotel. The rest of the day is free to rest and refresh from the long flight.



NOTE: If we have the energy we may go out at some point and enjoy the area surrounding our hotel. If we do, all are welcome to join this outing.

LONDON: London is one of the world's most popular cities. People have flocked to this city for tourism and business alike for over 2,000 years. Today London has the greatest concentration of major attractions in Britain, with 4 World Heritage Sites and is renowned throughout the world for its shops, museums, parks and cosmopolitan life.

May 22: **London tour B, D**

We will take a full day of sightseeing of all the major sites of London. At London's vibrant West End you can enjoy the famous sites of such as Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Big Ben. At the Tower of London we will visit the White, Bloody and Martin Towers, where prisoners were held and often tortured. Also you will see the Crown Jewels, displayed in a specially built jewel house.

Then we will visit Westminster Abby, one of Britain's most important churches, which was built in the eleventh century by King Edward, the Confessor. The

abbey now houses the tombs of many royals from subsequent centuries. Both Henry Purcell and Georg Frederic Handel are buried here.



Then we will visit the **Handel House Museum**. The Handel House Museum at 25 Brook Street was home to the great baroque composer George Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759. The only composer museum in London, this landmark address is where Handel composed some of the greatest music in history, including Messiah, Zadok the Priest and Music for the Royal Fireworks. Incidentally, Jimi Hendrix also used to have a flat within the Handel House.

Evening Option: Go to a West End Theatrical performance



May 23 – **London Tour** B, D



Today we will have a walking tour along the South Bank. This will include the main Street performers display their talents, as well as the **Tate Modern Museum, Shakespeare's Old Globe Theatre** and the historic **Southwark Church** (where Shakespeare's brother is buried). We can stroll along this lovely area with and enjoy lovely London life. We will also walk by the famous **London Eye**.
Option: ride on the London Eye (admission fee not included)

May 24 – **London – Transfer – Fly to Rome** B, D

Today we will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Rome. There we will be met and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to rest and/or explore our surrounding area of Rome.

May 25: **Rome Tour** B, D

This morning you will have a **Tour of the Vatican** with one of our expert guides lasting four-hours and including tickets and reservations so you avoid standing in line to see the **Sistine Chapel & St. Peters Basilica** as well as other must-see sights of the **Vatican**. For travelers visiting Italy, a Tour of the Vatican is an absolute must, and so we have designed this 4-hour to give as much time as possible



to focus on the must-see sights of the Vatican. In the confined spaces of the **Rooms by Rafael** (where the big tour groups can't go!), learn how to interpret the work of Rafael, and we'll reveal how Rafael expressed his admiration for his great rival Michelangelo. **We'll spend as much time as possible viewing and discussing the Sistine Chapel**, as you listen to the story of its transformation into one of the most sublime artistic creations of all time, and appreciate the personal relationship between two titanic figures of the Renaissance: Michelangelo & Pope Julius II. Your tour of the Vatican & Sistine Chapel continues



in the vast open spaces of **St. Peters Basilica** where you'll discover Bernini's breathtaking **Papal**

Canopy, and **Michelangelo's stunning Pietà**, as well as being entertained by anecdotes about the extravagant lifestyles of the Popes during the Renaissance, and the tale of a simple fisherman who became the first Pope of Christianity.

Then we will explore Rome's famous fountains and piazzas. You will enjoy the *passeggiata*, an early evening walk before dinner, is a centuries old tradition that is still practiced in small towns and cities throughout Italy today.

Take a relaxing stroll through Rome's historic quarter, showing off the city's world famous fountains, quaint side streets and piazzas, away from the heavy traffic.

Experience the sights, smells, and sounds of every day life while taking in Rome's more important historic landmarks. Like a city made of rock and water, Rome is festooned with famous fountains – best experienced at night when they are lit up and pouring shimmering blue light into the open air piazzas. These charming café-lined piazzas are not only full of history, they are alive with conversation and cuisine, like a living museum. In this tour, you will visit the **Trevi Fountain**, and the **Pantheon**, as well as many Piazzas.

At the end of the walk, your appetite will be looking for satisfaction, and our staff will be happy to point you in the direction of a favorite *Gelateria* (ice cream shop,) *Hosteria* (family restaurant,) or a romantic rooftop terrace.

May 26: Rome tour of Ancient Rome (B, D)

Let us take you through the dusty ancient streets and temples that Caesar, Augustus, and Nero, once haunted. See where many of our modern-day political practices were forged, and stand in the shadow of crumbled palaces and temples, coveted by one of the world's greatest civilizations. This site contains some of the world's most important ancient ruins, crowned in the distance by the omnipresent Colosseum. To many visitors, the **Roman Forum** is nothing more than a walk through weed infested ruins. But to those who



have studied Roman history, it is an exhilarating archeological site where one of the most powerful empires in history started, and its impact on contemporary culture is still present today. During our visit inside the **Colosseum**, you will relive the glory of the gladiators, and witness the early Romans' unquenchable thirst for blood sport through lively stories, and a detailed exploration of this infamous arena. If time allows at the end, you will have free entrance to explore the **Palatine Hill** on your own– once considered the "Beverly Hills" of ancient Rome – you'll discover the palaces of the emperor's, with sweeping views of the Tiber River and Circo Massimo (the great chariot race track.) This hill is a quiet and breathtaking retreat from congestion of the city, and has been a popular respite for princes and painters since the 17th century. The Palatine Hill is often overlooked by the large tour groups, and offers great vistas of the entire city and Ancient Rome.

Next you'll travel to the outside the Aurelian Walls down the ancient Appian Way to the **Catacombs of Rome**. Here you would explore these ancient burial grounds and learn about early Christian worship and symbolism.

From the catacombs we would head back toward the center, to the ancient Basilica of San Clemente. Three layers tell the fascinating story of this church, dating back to the first century when the structure was a temple to the Pagan God Mithras. A Christian church was erected on the site in the 4th century, and the Basilica we see today was finished in 1120.

Returning to the historic center, your guide would accompany you on a visit to the **Cappuchin Crypt**, also known as the 'Bone Church'. Few attractions in Rome rival this underground crypt created by the Capuchin Friars using thousand of bones of their fellow monks to decorate the walls and ceilings.

May 27: **Rome – bus to Florence B**

Today you will be taken to Florence, which is full of culture and art. We will see some interesting scenery along the way (including a photo stop at the Leaning Tower of Pisa). Upon arrival in Florence we will check into the hotel.

May 28: **Florence City Tour B, D**



On your Florence in a day tour, enjoy a walk through the streets and piazzas of Florence where we'll discuss the ideas of the Renaissance, the lives of many famous artists, the Medici family who showered Florence with countless masterpieces, and how life changed forever during this epic period of the history of Florence.

TOUR OF MICHELANGELO'S DAVID

After enjoying a walk through the historical centre of Florence, we arrive at the Accademia Gallery, home to Florence's most treasured work of art - "Michelangelo's David". After enjoying an in-depth discussion of David, we'll also have time to admire "Michelangelo's Slaves". A series of breath-taking sculptures.



Then feel free to stay at the museum or spend time in the city on your own.

May 29: **Florence / Tuscany Day trip – Overnight train to Vienna B, L**



Today you will be given a beautiful excursion through the delightful hills of Siena, San Gimignano, Monteriggioni and the **Chianti Classico countryside**, with an ever-changing scenery of vineyards and olive trees.

You will have the opportunity to admire small villages, little country churches, castles of rare beauty, hills covered with vineyards, olive groves, and



then oaks, scotch broom shrubs, pines, cypresses. Enjoy with us some of the best of the Tuscan area in all its splendour and authenticity in only one day and you will relax far away from the hustle and bustle of Florence.

Itinerary: on **the way to Siena we stop for half of an hour at the fortress of Monteriggioni** that is surrounded by walls and fourteen quadrilateral towers, still intact. It's a small, charming medieval village. Its dominant position on a hill contributes to increase the charm of this pretty village.

The tour continues at **Siena** where we stop for two hours. A town surrounded by medieval walls. Siena is famous all over the world for its **Piazza del Campo** where we drop you off, a large square in the centre of the town with its characteristic shell shape where the **Palio (horse race)** takes place twice during the year. The tour will conclude at the Cathedral where we will pick you up.



Then we stop at San Gimignano, one of the most charming towns in Tuscany, thanks to its typical medieval look. Here you have one and half hours in order to discover this fascinating city. San Gimignano is famous for the fourteen characteristic left towers, the Cathedral, the Collegiata Museum, and for the local white wine “ Vernaccia”. The last stop is at a winery in the Chianti area for one hour in order to taste the most celebrated Chianti red wine and extra virgin olive oil with a snack. Then we will take for the overnight train to Vienna.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN: Florence to Vienna.

May 30: **Vienna tour** D

You will arrive at the train station in Vienna in the morning then we will transfer to the hotel. When we are settled in we will take a walking tour of the **architectural masterpieces of Vienna**, including the **Ringstrasse** and the revered **1st District** (where cars are not allowed).

Evening Option: Concert in the Park (waltzes, etc)

May 31: **Vienna Tour – Overnight train to Cologne** B, D

You will be given a tour of **St. Stephen’s Cathedral** (the training church of Haydn), **Schonbrun Palace**, **Lipizzaner Riding School**, the **Memorial Plots of Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms**. Then we will go on an **overnight train to Cologne**.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN: Then we will go to the train station for your train to Frankfurt.

June 1: **Cologne – Rhine River Valley and Castles tour** B, D

We will arrive in Frankfurt in the morning. There our guide will meet us and take us to the Rhine River Valley area to experience this beautiful land of castles, hills and beautiful vistas. We will take a **short cruise of the Lorelei area**, see the various castles and beautiful countryside. We will also drive along some of the beautiful roads by the river and make some stops on the way to Cologne where we will check into our hotel, right by the train station and the famous Cathedral.



June 2: Cologne – Cathedral – Afternoon train to Paris B, L



Today we will visit the **Cologne Cathedral**. This is an amazing edifice, being over 700 years in construction and evidencing several architectural styles. We will look at the outside of this beautiful monument and do inside to see the amazing structure and artwork. In the evening we can enjoy this lovely German city.

AFTERNOON TRAIN: Cologne to Paris.
Transfer to Paris hotel.

June 3: Paris Tour B, D

Today we will have a full day tour of the enchanting city of Paris. You will go to the **Eiffel Tower** (including taking the elevator to the top of the Tower), the **Arc de' Triumph**, the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, **Champs Elysees** and the **Tomb of Napoleon**. We will end with a visit to the famous **Louvre Museum**, one of the world's great museums. We will focus on three world-famous works: the *Venus de Milo*, the *Victory of Samothrace* and Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, painted at the beginning of the 16th century. But there is much more there, including a full size replica of **Michaelangelo's David**, **Rembrandt's, Night Watchman** and much, much more.



June 4: Paris and Versailles–Full Day Guide and vehicle B, D

Today we will enjoy an excursion to **Versailles**. In Versailles, visit the palace, the magnificent monument to the extravagance of the French monarchy during the 17th century. Built by Louis XIV, the Sun King, Versailles became the home of the French royalty during that period, and eventually grew to represent all that was hated about the monarchy in the build up to the revolution in 1789. Your tour includes a walk around the fabulous state apartments which feature many superb works of art.



Afterwards we return to Paris.

Then we will visit **Pere Lachaise Cemetery**

in Paris - one of the most famous cemeteries in the world. Located in the 20th arrondissement, it is reputed to be the world's most-visited cemetery, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to the graves of those who have enhanced French life over the past 200 years. It is also the site of three World War I memorials. **Frederic Chopin is buried here**. We will also take you on a **cruise along the Seine**. As you glide along the water, find yourself face to face with Paris's splendid monuments and museums.



June 5: Paris – fly to the USA B

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our flight back to the USA with many wonderful memories!

End of Tour
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London, Rome, Florence, Vienna,
Cologne and Paris Tour
Day trips to: Pisa, Tuscany, Rhine Valley and Versailles

May 20- June 5

This incredible 17-day trip for only

Land and international Air from Los Angeles

Land and International Air price: \$5,695/person dbl occ *

Single Supplement: \$1,790

Included in price: International flights from LAX – London, Paris – LAX, London – Rome Flight, all Euro Rail trains as listed, all Private transfers as listed, Private tours in cities as listed, drivers and vehicles as listed and needed, Private guides for walking tours, entrance fees of all tours, quality hotels, meals as listed (14 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 11 dinners) Breakfasts every day when staying at hotels.

Not included: Items listed as OPTIONAL, meals not listed, tips to guides and drivers.

Recommended tips for guides, drivers and porters: \$165/person

We highly recommend and can provide Travel Insurance – *Just ask us!*

HOTELS included in pricing – (subject to availability)

We will be providing quality hotels in excellent locations. The confirmations are nearly complete.

***-CURRENT PRICE NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL THE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ARE PURCHASED.** This price is good as of March 22, 2011. Hotel prices