

Mediterranean/Southern Europe Farm Study Tour 2012



DRAFT ITINERARY

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1 Fri, Aug 10 (Meals on plane, L)	Note: Flights depart around lunchtime various Australian ports on Thursday Aug 9, via Asia, for arrival Istanbul the morning of the 10th. On arrival, we are transferred to our hotel for a well-earned rest and freshen up before lunch and an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus – the strait separating European and Asian Istanbul. Free evening.	Istanbul
DAY 2 Sat, Aug 11 (B,L)	Guided tour of the ancient and intriguing city of Istanbul, the gateway between Europe and Asia. We will visit Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, The Grand Bazaar and other historically significant sights. Free evening.	Istanbul
DAY 3 Sun, Aug 12 (B,L,D)	Board our charter coach and depart Istanbul for our journey to the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles. We visit a farm along the way before arriving at Gallipoli. This afternoon we will be guided through Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, The Nek and other Gallipoli memorials. Late this afternoon, we ferry across the Dardanelles to Canakkale.	Canakkale
DAY 4 Mon, Aug 13 (B,L,D)	Today we continue south through Turkish farmlands before arriving at Ephesus, a magnificently preserved Roman city. Tour of the ruins before continuing onto the coastal resort town of Kusadasi.	Kusadasi
DAY 5 Tue, Aug 14 (B,D)	Some free time in Kusadasi before boarding our afternoon ferry to the Greek island of Samos, one of the Mediterranean's most beautiful island destinations. Samos has magnificent scenery – ranging from rugged mountain peaks to fertile and verdant valleys and stunning beaches – plus a rich and complex history.	Samos
DAY 6 Wed, Aug 15 (B,L)	Samos is the home of Pythagoras, the philosopher who discovered the mathematical relationship between sides of a right triangle. Samos also has a well-preserved aqueduct which is widely regarded as one of the masterpieces of ancient engineering. We will tour the sights of Samos and inspect some traditional island farms.	Samos
DAY 7 Thu, Aug 16 (B,L,D)	This morning we fly (50 minutes) to Athens. We enjoy a guided tour of this ancient city including the magnificent Acropolis, crowned by the Parthenon temple, keeping guard over the Greek capital. Since cars have been banned from the historic city centre, this whole area has become one of the world's great outdoor museums.	Athens
DAY 8 Fri, Aug 17 (B,L,D)	This morning we board our charter coach and head northwest into the heart of Greece. We visit cotton farms in the Thessaly region. Historically, cotton producers in Greece have received the highest subsidies per pound of cotton in the world (around five times more than the cotton subsidies provided by other countries and about 150% of the average annual world cotton price).	Thessaly region
DAY 9 Sat, Aug 18 (B,L,D)	We continue northwest through beautiful Greek villages and farmlands, with farm and scenic stops along the way, to the port of Igoumenitsa. This is a picturesque small town with forests running down to the crystal clear blue water beaches of the Ionian Sea. After dinner we board our overnight ferry, with private cabins, and enjoy a relaxing crossing to the Italian port city of Bari.	Overnight ferry to Italy
DAY 10 Sun, Aug 19 (B,L)	Early morning arrival in Bari, one of the most prosperous cities in southern Italy. We continue due west across 'the ankle' of Italy to the Amalfi coast. Stretching about 50 km along the southern side of the Sorrentine Peninsula, the Amalfi Coast is one of Europe's most breathtaking scenes. Cliffs terraced with scented lemon groves sheer down into sparkling seas – whitewashed villas cling precariously to unforgiving slopes while sea and sky merge in one vast blue horizon. Positano is probably the coast's most photogenic town. Free evening to enjoy this magnificent place.	Amalfi Coast

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DAY 11 Mon, Aug 20 (B,L,D)	Today we have a short drive north to one of Europe's most compelling archaeological sites – Pompeii. Guided tour of the site before continuing onto Rome.	Rome
Day 12 Tue, Aug 21 (B,L)	Guided city tour of Rome and then free time in the afternoon to enjoy one of the world's most interesting cities.	Rome
Day 13 Wed, Aug 22 (B,L,D)	We travel north today for around 200 km and into Tuscany. We visit a pasta factory and durum grower in this beautiful region. We also enjoy an evening tour of Florence – the jewel of Renaissance Italy.	Florence
Day 14 Thu, Aug 23 (B,L)	Free time this morning to enjoy some of the many museums and historic sites of Florence before boarding our bus in the early afternoon and travelling to arguably, an even more beautiful city in Venice. Free evening in Venice.	Venice
Day 15 Fri, Aug 24 (B,L,D)	This morning we have a guided tour of Venice. With the world's most artistic masterpieces per square km and world-famous sites such as St Mark's Square and the Grand Canal – there's plenty to see. In the late afternoon we board our bus and travel northeast for a couple of hours into the north Italian plain towards Austria.	Udine area
Day 16 Sat, Aug 25 (B,L)	Udine lies at the east end of this fertile Italian plain and in the flood-plain of the River Tagliamento. Crops such as rice, beans and vegetables are a specialty of the area and these products make up the signature dishes of this region. We visit farms as we travel north into Austria and onto the region of Salzburg – the home of Mozart melodies and scenes from <i>The Sound of Music</i> . The region surrounding Salzburg is locally termed the 'Salzkammergut' because of the extensive underground salt deposits – and just for something completely different, we have the opportunity to go underground and check out a salt mine. We'll also take in some of the more gentele offerings of this beautiful city – maybe a Saturday evening Mozart recital?	Salzburg
Day 17 Sun, Aug 26 (B,L,D)	After a leisurely Sunday morning in Salzburg we head west towards Munich with a grain farm visit on the way. Late afternoon guided city tour of Munich to get your bearings. We enjoy dinner at Hofbräuhaus – the most famous brewery and beer hall in the world. Here veal sausage and pork roasts can be washed down with foaming beers served in 1 litre steins while Bavarian bands play the signature Oompah-beat – or you can have a garden salad and orange juice!	Munich
Day 18 Mon, Aug 27 (B)	Free day in Munich. Some of the many attractions include Marienplatz (the central square) and the nearby and bustling Viktualienmarkt – Munich's daily outdoor farmers' market boasting a huge variety of fresh and regional foods. You may also be interested in visiting the WWII Dachau Concentration Camp 10 km to the north of Munich. Regular tours take you through extensive exhibits and memorials.	Munich
Day 19 Tue, Aug 28 (B,L,D)	More farm and farm machinery manufacturing (Horsch) visits today in the Regensburg/Schwandorf region to the north of Munich before continuing onto Nuremberg.	Nuremberg
Day 20 Wed, Aug 29 (B,L,D)	Nuremberg is Bavaria's second-largest city and for centuries was the unofficial capital of the Holy Roman Empire and the preferred residence of German kings. In the 19th century the city was at the heart of the industrial revolution in Germany. After WWII the city was chosen as the site of the War Crimes Tribunal – the Nuremberg Trials. After painstaking reconstruction – using the original stone – almost all the city's main buildings have returned the city to some of its former glory. We see the main sights of the city and meet with local farmers.	Nuremberg
Day 21 Thu, Aug 30 (B,L,D)	Today we continue onto Frankfurt – 200 km to the northwest – with farm and scenic stops on the way. Farewell dinner in Frankfurt.	Frankfurt
Day 22 Fri, Aug 31 (B)	Time for some last minute shopping before catching your evening flight home to Australia. There are also plenty of add-on options into other parts of Europe or a stopover in Asia on the way home.	On plane