

Experiences › Routes › Europe › 20 days

ITINERARY

Six countries, and a meeting with the person who designs

Twenty days, six countries, two working factories and one possibility that exists nowhere else in our catalog: sitting in front of a person who **designs** a product known all over the world and asking them how they do it. It is the longest route, the most expensive and the most fragile, and all three are written on this page.

On this route you walk into two working factories.

Fact sheet

01

DAYS	20
COUNTRIES	France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland
CITIES	Paris, Milan, Bologna, Berlin and Wolfsburg, Amsterdam and Eindhoven, Copenhagen, Helsinki
RECOMMENDED SEASON	January
GROUP	12 to 15 participants, with the group split in two for one guided visit
LANGUAGE OF THE VISITS	English at the northern sites and in Paris on Wednesdays and Thursdays; German available in Germany; in Italy it is confirmed on

→ **Request a quotation · Download the itinerary in PDF**

In the quotation we write which sites are confirmed and which are being confirmed, one by one, and the option with the designer appears as **a separate line with its price next to it.**

The map, described

You start in the west and finish in the northeast. Paris, then Milan, an hour by train to Bologna, and from there the same climbing line as the other variants: Berlin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Helsinki. Five flights inside Europe, one Italian train and three one-day trips that do not leave the country: Wolfsburg from Germany, Eindhoven from the Netherlands and, as an option, Billund from Denmark.

Paris comes at the start and not in the middle for a practical reason: it is the stop with the most rigid day-of-the-week restriction on the whole route, and putting it first fixes all the rest of the calendar from there.

The route, country by country

Country	Days	The content	What you visit	Next transfer
---------	------	-------------	----------------	---------------

France, Paris	2	A campus with a thousand startups inside	Station F, Insider Tour (<i>bookable, free, maximum 25, individual registration compulsory, in English on Wednesdays and Thursdays only</i>) · HEC Paris, immersion program (<i>on request</i>)	flight to Milan
Italy, Milan	3	Design as a system	ADI Design Museum (<i>bookable, closed on Fridays</i>) · La Centrale dell'Acqua (<i>bookable, closed Tuesdays and Thursdays</i>) · Fondazione Pirelli (<i>on request</i>)	train to Bologna
Italy, Bologna	2	The first working factory	Ducati Museum and factory tour (<i>bookable, online booking compulsory</i>) · CUBO Museum (<i>on request, Monday to Friday</i>)	flight to Berlin
Germany, Berlin	3	Scale-up and corporate venture	EUREF-Campus (<i>bookable, groups of up to 15</i>) · Startup SAFARI (<i>on request</i>)	trip to Wolfsburg
Germany, Wolfsburg	1	The second working factory	Autostadt, 90-minute FactoryTour (<i>bookable, Monday to Friday only, minimum age 10</i>) and guided visit of the park (<i>maximum 10 people per slot</i>)	flight to Amsterdam

The Netherlands, Amsterdam	2	The brand as an asset	Heineken Experience (<i>bookable</i>)	trip to Eindhoven
The Netherlands, Eindhoven	1	Deep tech	High Tech Campus Eindhoven (<i>on request, weekdays only</i>)	flight to Copenhagen
Denmark, Copenhagen	3	Design and the city, and the option with the designer	BLOXHUB (<i>on request</i>) · Danish Architecture Center (<i>bookable</i>) · option: LEGO House, Billund, format with a private guide and a meeting with a member of the design team (<i>on request, with the price stated in the quotation</i>)	flight to Helsinki
Finland, Helsinki and Espoo	3	Student entrepreneurship	Maria 01 (<i>on request</i>) · Startup Sauna, student hub (<i>on request</i>) · A Grid, the Aalto campus (<i>on request</i>)	return

The day count, written out so that it adds up. Twenty days are: two in Paris, three in Milan, two in Bologna, four in Germany of which one in Wolfsburg, three in the Netherlands of which one in Eindhoven, three in Denmark and three in Finland. **The Billund option does not add a day: it takes one of the three Danish ones,** because the site is some 260 kilometers from Copenhagen and the round trip is a whole day. Whoever chooses the option gives up a Danish day, and we write it here because it is the only point on the route where you pay twice, in money and in time.

The option with the person who designs, and why it is an option

In Billund there is a visit format with a private guide that includes a meeting with a member of the team that designs the product. **It is the only point in the whole catalog, thirty-eight experiences included, where you talk to the person who designs**, and for a group of young entrepreneurs it is worth exactly that.

It is not inside the price of this route, and that is our decision. The format has a significant cost per group, which split across fifteen people becomes a cost per person not everyone would choose to pay, and on top of that it uses up a whole day of the trip. Putting it in the base package would mean raising everyone's ticket for an experience not everyone wants.

So it goes into the quotation as **a separate line, with its price written next to it and its cost in days stated**, and the decision belongs to whoever buys. It is the same logic by which we do not put into the price the tickets not everyone is going to use.

Schengen days used: 20

05

This route uses up **20 of the 90 days** a Mexican national may spend in the Schengen area within a 180-day period without a visa. **Every** day of stay counts, including arrival and departure, and the count is **cumulative across the whole area**: the six countries on the route are all inside Schengen, so the twenty days add up to each other and add to any earlier trip by the same participant in the last six months.

Since **10 April 2026** the European entry-exit registration system has been fully operating at all external crossings of the 29 countries that use it: the count no longer depends on passport stamps. The European Commission provides an **official calculator of available days**, public and also in Spanish, which however does not count stays begun before 10 April 2026.

Twenty days are more than a fifth of the total available in six months, and it is the route in the catalog that uses up the most. If even one single participant traveled to Europe recently, they may not have twenty days available: this check is made **participant by participant** before the group is enrolled, not

on the group as a block and not at the desk. On this route the individual check is a condition of enrollment. → **Visa and residence permit**

What changes with 15 and what changes with 30 participants

06

	15 participants	30 participants
Paris, Station F	The whole group goes in, the ceiling is 25. Each participant registers individually: that is fifteen registrations, which we handle	Above the ceiling: two visits are needed , and the individual registrations become thirty
Wolfsburg, guided visit of the park	The group is already split in two , because the guide takes 10 people	Three or four slots are needed on the same day
Bologna, factory tour	The whole group goes in at the booked times	Two time slots, and half the group waits
Berlin, EUREF-Campus	The whole group goes in	The campus takes up to 15 people per visit: two visits
Berlin, Startup SAFARI	It is the stated ideal size, between six and fifteen	Above the range: the conversation is lost
Amsterdam, Heineken Experience	No group discount	The only site that rewards a large group : the discount applies above twenty people
The option with the designer	The cost per group divided by fifteen is high	It is the only case in the catalog where a large group really halves the cost per person , because the format is paid per group and not per person

Cost per person

It is the lowest point on the curve on every other line

It does not go down and on many lines it goes up, because six countries, five flights and six calendar constraints with thirty people are a different operation

The fallback plan for the transfers

07

Five flights, one train and two compulsory one-day trips across twenty days. This is **the most fragile variant in the catalog**, and we say so ourselves rather than waiting for the group to find out.

1. **The calendar is built backwards from the constraints, and here there are six.** The English-language tour in Paris runs **on Wednesdays and Thursdays only**; the factory visit in Wolfsburg **Monday to Friday only**; the Eindhoven campus **closes at weekends**; the Berlin campus has the lowest capacity; the Milan design museum closes on Fridays; the Milan water plant closes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Six constraints across twenty days and six countries mean there is in practice one single possible sequence of dates.** The six are fixed first, then the flights are bought, and if one of the six does not fit, the whole departure moves by a week.
2. **No visit on the day of a flight, and never in the morning.**
3. **One reserve day in three countries out of six.** In France, in Germany and in the Netherlands that reserve **does not exist**: the days are tied to the day of the week. If one of those falls through, the site is lost.
4. **The overland alternative is checked when quoting**, for each of the five flights, with the warning that the last leg towards Finland is the one with the fewest alternatives.

And one rule that falls on us: the person from the Istituto traveling with the group has the mandate to rewrite the day on the spot, informing the institution's office the same day. Across twenty days that person is also the only continuity the program has, which is why on this route we never take them out of the quotation.

What is included and what is not

08

Included: admissions and visits to the confirmed sites, including the multiple slots in Wolfsburg and the individual registration of each participant in Paris, the booking and coordination with all the sites, the guided working sessions in each country, the materials, one person from the Istituto with the group for all twenty days, the final report handed to the institution that brings the group and the certificate of participation.

Not included: the intercontinental flight, the five internal flights, the Italian train and the overland transfers, lodging, meals, urban transport, travel insurance, nor **the option with the designer in Billund**, which is a separate line in the quotation with its price written out.

The season, and why January

09

Like the other variants, this one is meant **for January**: all the sites are urban or industrial and indoors. In January the cities of northern Europe work at full pace while tourism is at a standstill, and the two factory days work better in a month of full production.

Two warnings we give first: **the Berlin campus walk takes place largely outdoors; in Copenhagen and Helsinki the hours of daylight in January are few**, and in those two cities the itinerary is built around the hours of daylight and not around waking hours. The Italian part runs **from 8 January** and not before. The reason, month by month, is on the **Seasons** page.

Cover

10

The program includes an accident and public liability policy for the whole stay. The sums insured, the insurer and the policy number are published once it is taken out and are attached to the contract; until then they can be requested in writing, with an answer within two working days.

Do you want it to count as training, with a certificate? This route can be built as an Istituto program, with classroom hours in each country, a piece of work delivered at the end and a certificate of attendance. → **For groups**

→ **Request a quotation**

What changes compared with the other three

11

This page exists for the question none of the other three answers: «**what will they remember five years from now?**»

	This one (C)	The recommended one (D)	One city in each (A)	Where things are actually made (B)
Days	20	15	15	18
Countries	six	five	five	five
Working factories	two	none	none	two
Meeting with the person who designs	yes, as an option with a stated price	no	no	no
Calendar constraints	six	three	three	five
Schengen days	20	15	15	18
Fragility	the highest in the catalog	low	the lowest	medium

You choose this one if the group has the time and the budget, if the association wants the thing the participants will talk about when they get back, and if whoever organizes accepts that the calendar cannot move by a single day once it is fixed.

You choose D, which we recommend, in every other case: fifteen days, three constraints instead of six, and a document that in the office reads as a program.

You choose A if the institution wants to fit in days of its own, or if this is the first time it organizes a trip like this and it prefers the variant with the least that can go wrong.

You choose B if the factories are needed but Paris is not, and five fewer days count.

One thing we say against our own interest. This is the variant that costs the most and it is not the one we recommend. Across twenty days and with six calendar constraints, the chance of having to rewrite something along the way is high, and the added value compared with D is concentrated in two days: the German factory and the option with the designer. If those two days are the reason for the trip, this is the right page. If they are not, D costs less and holds up better.

 Istituto Belmonte	MAIN	INSTITUTIONAL
BHBlasted S.r.l. Società Benefit	Programs	The Institute
P.IVA 08466861211 · REA NA 960178	Experiences	Transparency
PEC (Italian certified email) not yet published	For groups	The certificate
Nola (NA), via Boscofangone zona ASI lotto C8	Admissions	The method
Caserta (CE), via Paul Harris 63	Visas	Who teaches
		Locations
Monday to Friday 9–18 CET		For groups
		Contact
Academic notice Privacy Cookies Terms		
https://istitutobelmonte.com/en/experiences/routes/six-countries-and-a-meeting-with-a-designer/		

This program does not lead to a qualification with official value.

Istituto Belmonte is a private Italian training institute. Its programs do not award qualifications with official value in Italy or Mexico and do not carry university credits. A certificate of attendance is issued.