

## **RLS's 1863 Journey Through Europe**

RLS, his mother, father, cousin Elizabeth (Bessie) Stevenson and nurse Alison Cunningham (Cummy) travelled through Europe from 2 January - 20 May 1863. Cummy kept a diary of the visit, which offers many insights into the Stevensons' travels and where they stayed. Please see below the Stevensons' travel itinerary – you can also look at the pages devoted to these places in the “In the Footsteps” section of the website:

### **Outward Journey**

#### **3 & 4 January: London**

*Accommodation:* Craven Hotel

#### **5 January: Dover**

*Accommodation:* Lord Warden Hotel

### **France**

#### **6 January: Amiens**

*Accommodation:* Hotel du Rhin.

#### **7 January: Paris**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Meurice.

*Visited:* Notre Dame; L'Eglise de la Madeleine; Palais des Tuileries.

#### **8 & 9 January: Lyons**

*Accommodation:* Grand-Hotel Collet

#### **10 January: Marseilles**

*Accommodation:* Hotel des Colonies

#### **11 January: Toulon**

*Accommodation:* Hotel de l'Amiraute

#### **12 -14 January: Cannes**

*Accommodation:* Hotel du Nord

*Note:* from Toulon they took a rail to les Arcs and then a carriage to Cannes. They also passed through Frejus.

#### **15 January – 4 February: Nice**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Chauvain, on the Quai of St Jean Baptiste

*Visited:* Villefranche-sur-Mer (29 January), a village three miles from Nice

#### **4 February – 31 March: Mentone**

*Accommodation:* Villa Bosano

*Visited:* Monaco (12 February); Italy (20 and 23 February, 5 March - Ventimiglia); Turin Road (21 February); Hotel Victoria for the Mentone celebrations of the marriage of the Prince of Wales (10 March); Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (29 March)

## **Italy**

### **31 March: Oneglia** (now a district in Imperia)

*Accommodation:* Hotel Victoria

*Visited:* en route to Oneglia, lunched at Sanremo

### **1 April: Savona**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Reale

*Visited:* en route to Savona, lunched at Finale Borgo

### **2 – 5 April: Genoa**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Royal

*Visited:* Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo Balbi (4 April); Church of Sant' Ambrogio (5 April, Easter Sunday); Scotch Service at the Waldensian Church (5 April)

### **6 April: Sestri Levante**

*Accommodation:* Hotel de l'Europe

### **7 April : La Spezia**

### **8 April: Pisa**

*Visited:* lunched at Massa, leaning tower of Pisa, Baptistry of St John, and the cathedral of Pisa – Piazza del Duomo

### **9 April: Leghorn**

### **10-16 April: Naples**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Washington

*Visited:* National Archaeological Museum (11 April); Virgil's Tomb (11 April); Teatro di San Carlo (11 April); ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum (13 and 14 April); Puzzoli (14 April)

*Note:* On 10 April the Stevensons sailed the *Principe Umberto* to Naples, passing Elba and Corsica.

### **17 -23 April: Rome**

*Accommodation:* Hotel de l'Europe in the Piazza di Spagna

*Visited:* St Peter's Basilica (17, 19 and 20 April); Appian Way (19 April); Catacombs (19 April); ruins of Caesar's Palace (19 April); Vatican (20 April); Basilica of Saint Lawrence - San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (22 April)

*Note:* Also visited the Temple of Vesta and the Colosseum, but exact dates unknown

### **23 April: Viterbo**

### **24 April: Orvieto**

*Visited:* Oriveto Cathedral - Duomo di Oriveto; the city ramparts

### **25 April: Ficulle, and train via Sienna en route to Florence**

### **26 – 30 April : Florence**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Arno

*Visited:* Florence Cathedral – Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (28 April); Palazzo Pitti, home of King Emmanuel II (29 April); Boboli Gardens (30 April)

**1 May: Through the Apennines**

*Note:* From Florence, the party took the train and then the diligence (a stagecoach) across the Apennines.

**2 May: Bologna**

**3 May: Ferrara**

**4 May: Padua**

*Visited:* Padua Cathedral (Duomo di Padova); Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua

**4-7 May: Venice**

*Accommodation:* near to Ponte Rialto

*Visited:* Ponte dei Sospiri (5 May); Palace of Doges (5 May); gondola trips (6 & 7 May)

**8 May: Verona** (party stops for lunch)

**Austria**

**8 May: Botzen** (now part of Italy and known as Bolzano – Botzen, was part of the Austro-Hungarian county of Tyrol until 1919)

**9 May: Mittwolde** (this is now Mittenwald, Germany)

**10 May: carriage along Brenner Pass, staying the night in Innsbruck**

**Germany**

**11 & 12 May: Munich**

*Accommodation:* Bavarian Hotel

**13 May: Augsburg**

*Accommodation:* Drei Mohren Hotel

**14 May: Nuremberg**

*Accommodation:* Bavarian Hotel

**15 May: Frankfurt**

**16 & 17 May Cologne**

*Accommodation:* Hotel de Hollande

*Visited:* Cologne Cathedral (17 May)

*Note:* On 16 May take steamer at Bingen am Rheim to Koblenz (pass Stolzenfels Castle en route); have lunch at Koblenz in Hotel Bellevue and arrive Cologne

## **Belgium**

**18 May: Ghent**

## **Return Journey**

**19 May: Calais**

*Note:* Pass through Lille on way to Calais

**20 May: Cross the channel**

**20 May: pass through Dover**

**20-22 May: London**

*Accommodation:* Craven Hotel, Strand

*Visited:* Lee, Blackheath (22 May)

The Stevensons probably returned to Edinburgh shortly afterwards – Cummy returned on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, having taken an overnight train from London to Edinburgh.

For more information see Cunningham, Alison, *Cummy's Diary*, preface by Robert T. Skinner (London: Chatto and Windus, 1926).